

THE OAXACA LENDING LIBRARY, A.C. Activity Report Mexico City, October 13, 2025

The nonprofit organization THE OAXACA LENDING LIBRARY, A.C. (OLL), registered in the State of Oaxaca since the year 2000, is a bilingual lending library that carries out cultural, educational, and social activities intended for the general public and residents of Oaxaca in fulfillment of its social objectives. These activities include the promotion and dissemination of music, visual arts, dramatic arts, dance, literature, architecture, and cinematography through talks, author presentations, educational and cultural tours and hikes, language programs for adults and children, community partnerships, and maintenance of a bilingual collection of 31,910 books for adults, youth, and children. Children, youth, and students receive free OLL subscription memberships to borrow books. All activities are designed to promote a love of reading and learning that spans generations and cultures.

The OLL's bilingual programs and activities are held at its principal office located at José María Pino Suárez, No. 519, Ruta Independencia, Centro, 68000 Oaxaca de Juárez, Oaxaca, and throughout the State of Oaxaca and other regions in Mexico. Email Address:

library@oaxlibrary.org, Telephone Number: 52 951 518 7077. Mainly run by a group of 140 dedicated volunteers, with forty members of various committees, the OLL has only three paid staff members: Library Manager, Circulation Desk Manager, and Administrative Assistant.

<https://www.oaxlibrary.org/who-is-the-oll>

To promote and track its activities, the OLL maintains an official website (with a daily activity calendar) and two Facebook pages, along with an OLL Newsletter (monthly from April to September and bi-monthly from October to March), all of which are used to share relevant information, updates, and events. The OLL Facebook page is followed by 2,200 persons, the Friends of the OLL Facebook page is followed by 4,400 persons, and the Newsletter is subscribed to by 2,600+ persons.

Support Links:

- Website: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/>
- Website screenshots, 2023 and 2024: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/event-pictures>
- Facebook Pages:
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/197454564000>
- <https://www.facebook.com/oaxacalendinglibrary>
- OLL Newsletter:
<https://mailchi.mp/5a0d1824cb53/weekly-events-update-from-oll-5243373>

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY THE OAXACA LENDING LIBRARY, A.C.:

1. Language Exchanges (Intercambios) (Free)

- **Nature of the activity:** A cultural practice involving a linguistic exchange between Spanish and English speakers, where participants practice their language skills in their non-native tongue.
- **Schedule:** Ongoing activity held Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- **Location:** José María Pino Suárez No. 519, Ruta Independencia, Centro, 68000 Oaxaca de Juárez, Oaxaca.
- **Audience:** General public; approximately 40–60 Oaxacans and 10–30 foreigners weekly.
- **Format:** In-person.
- **Documentation:**
 - Newsletter: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/newsletter>
 - Website: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/daytime-activities>
 - Website: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/event-pictures>

2. Jóvenes Adelante (Youth Moving Forward)(Free)

- **Nature of the activity:** Cultural program that teaches intermediate English to youth and teens, including grammar, writing, and reading. The OLL youth library has 1,519 Spanish-language books and 2,267 English-language books, along with 495 Spanish-language teen books and 694 English-language teen books. All of these books can be borrowed.
- **Schedule:** Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in person.
- **Location:** José María Pino Suárez No. 519, Ruta Independencia, Centro, 68000 Oaxaca de Juárez, Oaxaca.
- **Audience:** Youth aged 12 to 17. Approximately 10 youth each week.
- **Format:** In-person.
- **Documentation:**
 - Website: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/daytime-activities>
 - Newsletter: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/newsletter>
 - Website: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/event-pictures>

3. ¡Niños Adelante! (Children Moving Forward)(Free)

- **Nature of the activity:** Cultural program that teaches English to children through songs, games, and reading. The OLL is a member of the Libros para Pueblos, A.C. (LpP) network of approximately 60 libraries. LpP establishes long-term relationships with libraries in economically and socially disadvantaged regions of Oaxaca to foster effective early intervention in reading promotion. The OLL children's library has 1,396 Spanish-language books, and 1,780 English-language books that can be borrowed.
- **Schedule:** Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in person.
- **Location:** Jose Maria Pino Suárez No. 519, Ruta Independencia, Centro, 68000 Oaxaca de Juárez, Oaxaca.
- **Audience:** Children aged 5 to 10. Parents and family are invited to attend. Approximately 10 children each week.
- **Format:** In-person.

- **Documentation:**

- Website: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/daytime-activities>
- Newsletter: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/newsletter>
- Newsletter: *A Message from the President*~<https://mailchi.mp/2ac9a297020e/weekly-events-update-from-oll-5803015?e=9a4596ce10>
- <https://www.facebook.com/oaxacalendinglibrary/posts/pfbid028YGAdqyUQ41ictBEvwf2XQ1Yy1b9hkAsw7CH9aBpHZt9P8VbPiAzzCKfqDNUes8fl?rdid=edbNJ6XCFXuVj83u>
- Website: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/event-pictures>

4. Writing Through(Free)

- **Nature of the activity:** Cultural program that teaches youth and adults to write creative poems and stories in their non-native language without the inner critic needlessly censoring their expression.
- **Schedule:** Periodically. Generally, twice each year.
- **Location:** Jose Maria Pino Suarez No. 519, Ruta Independencia, Centro, 68000 Oaxaca de Juarez, Oaxaca.
- **Audience:** Teen through Adult.
- **Format:** In-person.
- **Documentation:**
 - Website: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/event-pictures>
 - Newsletter: *A Message from the President*
<https://mailchi.mp/8fabd78c9cc8/weekly-events-update-from-oll-5798065?e=9a4596ce10>

5. Stitches~ Needle Arts

- **Nature of the activity:** A cultural activity involving knitting, crocheting, or any craft of needle arts. Participants make hats and scarves that are donated to children in the Oaxaca Valley and in the mountains.
- **Schedule:** Weekly on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- **Location:** José María Pino Suárez No. 519, Ruta Independencia, Centro, 68000 Oaxaca de Juárez, Oaxaca.
- **Audience:** General public.
- **Format:** In-person.
- **Documentation:**
 - Website: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/daytime-activities>
 - Newsletter: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/newsletter>
 - Website: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/event-pictures>

6. Bookworms

- **Nature of the activity:** A cultural activity consisting of a book club where each participant has the opportunity to share their enthusiasm for recent book readings by preparing a review and presenting it to the group.
- **Schedule:** Held on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **Location:** José María Pino Suárez No. 519, Ruta Independencia, Centro, 68000 Oaxaca de Juárez, Oaxaca.
- **Audience:** General public.
- **Format:** In-person.
- **Documentation:**
 - Website: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/daytime-activities>
 - Newsletter: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/newsletter>

7. Terrace Talks

- **Nature of the activity:** As part of its cultural programming, the OLL offers a series of diverse educational and cultural “Terrace Talks.” The topics of the Talks range from matters of local interest, like water and gentrification, to Oaxacan history, culture, and languages, to transnational issues like migration and climate change. Many talks are about the visual arts, music, dance, photography, cinematography, architecture, and design. All Terrace Talks are delivered by knowledgeable and accomplished presenters, well-versed in their subject matter. In 2023, the OLL presented 54 talks attended by 1,946 persons; in 2024, the OLL presented 60 talks attended by 2,188 persons; and to date in 2025 the OLL has presented 39 talks attended by 1,298 persons.
- **Schedule:** Held largely during the fall and winter months.
- **Location:** José María Pino Suárez No. 519, Ruta Independencia, Centro, 68000 Oaxaca de Juárez, Oaxaca.
- **Audience:** General public.
- **Format:** In-person and digital (recordings available on the website).
- **Documentation:**
 - Website: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/talks-presentations>
 - Video Library: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/videolibrary>
 - <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/event-pictures>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/oaxacalendinglibrary/posts/pfbid02JEFuz1UodLnhvZvt17Mw34MkZ1uZg3BA7zWHqZGB7NLk5S1gPUSGJaViStHQ9swVI?rdid=nlVtrfxeaFJI08I#>
 - Website: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/event-pictures>
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/197454564000>

8. Book Presentations (Free)

- **Nature of the activity:** A literary event where authors present their published works.
- **Schedule:** Periodic. In 2024, there were 8 Book Presentations and 158 attendees; in 2025 to date, there have been 7 book presentations and 85 attendees.

- **Location:** José María Pino Suárez No. 519, Ruta Independencia, Centro, 68000 Oaxaca de Juárez, Oaxaca.
- **Audience:** General public.
- **Format:** In-person.
- **Documentation:**
 - Website: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/book-presentations>
 - Website: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/event-pictures>
 - FaceBook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/197454564000>

9. Tours – Out & About in Oaxaca

- **Nature of the activity:** Cultural and educational excursions within the State of Oaxaca and other regions of Mexico. In the Out & About program, the OLL visits community partners, artists and artisans, families, and community elders to provide a rich, educational, and memorable experience for participants.
- **Schedule:** Offered primarily from November to March.
- **Location:** Oaxaca and other locations.
- **Audience:** General public (42 tours recorded in 2023 with 539 participants, 40 in 2024 with 748 participants, and 23 so far in 2025 with 255 participants).
- **Format:** In-person.
- **Documentation:**
 - Website: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/tours-out-and-about>
 - Facebook Posts:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/oaxacalendinglibrary/posts/pfbid02ccuugTyb1YYv6Hn6spvwWeamtNww2ryBTWx3maKD8i5qfd4kFoGs5nPMQKaoXo5QI?rdid=b0kWuulaVxCeZTgg#>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/oaxacalendinglibrary/posts/pfbid0wta1VZCBY4GMcKmV6yK5F8Evk41ePbMjSzpWJCyoW2MsLm1QiNz8f8aWaa6LcWTQI?rdid=nGzoATcQjqv6qCB5#>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/oaxacalendinglibrary/posts/pfbid02MSngNvvmSbEgcQnuDcr3qY3Mu71Q9dhxe1qurNMAv8jhC9UhPWnUco1pxA3dBQzBI?rdid=h5uYXNZHQB8U8IHC#>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/197454564000/permalink/10162263235639001/?rdid=eSi4S5vucD7XEcTv#>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/197454564000/permalink/10162135134859001/?rdid=chin1fdInjwT4Enk#>

10. Hikes - Hoofing it in Oaxaca

- **Nature of the activity:** Cultural activities consisting of educational and cultural hikes led by a bilingual expert guide who shares extensive knowledge of the

physical and cultural aspects of the region. Includes a variety of day and overnight hikes in the Oaxaca Valley and surrounding mountains.

- **Schedule:** Offered several times a week, primarily from November to March.
- **Location:** Central valleys and mountains of Oaxaca. Meeting point: Calle de Los Libres, between Zarate and San Martín, behind the Grand Fiesta Americana Hotel. Most hikes depart at 8:00 a.m.
- **Audience:** General public (59 hikes recorded in 2023 with 939 participants, 73 in 2024 with 871 participants, and 48 so far in 2025 with 670 participants).
- **Format:** In-person.
- **Documentation:**
 - Website: Website: <https://www.oaxlibrary.org/hikes>
 - Facebook posts: <https://www.facebook.com/oaxacalendinglibrary/posts/pfbid02TSBkWrNxRVp4dcaFMZ2jqN1qHY2rvzfh9XqEjNELN3Gj7hLz9dwih9bzJhvNAKqMI?rldid=0cEDnTfmUABfR1z1#>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/197454564000/permalink/10161514913954001/?rldid=mShzawvC51TNQmdff#>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/197454564000/permalink/10161467090144001/?rldid=4qLL5MplzaM0QFvr#>

In addition to the many offerings listed above, the OLL provides other resources for the Oaxacan community: A weekly Welcome to Oaxaca gathering that identifies local resources and current events and experiences available in the City

<https://www.oaxlibrary.org/daytime-activities>; an annual Bazaar timed to coincide with Aguinaldo that offers lightly used toys, household goods, furniture and clothes for extremely discounted prices.

<https://mailchi.mp/b53977f0358a/weekly-events-update-from-oll-5806388?e=9a4596ce10>;

an annual Boutique that provides space for local artisans to sell their crafts

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=a8cd86a9c9&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-a:r4184239469911012845&view=att&disp=safe&realattid=f_mgo8ls2i0&zw; and an annual Three

Kings Day Giving Tree where members of the general public select tags with donation requests from a decorated tree, and then purchase the requested items for those in need

<https://mailchi.mp/7166e0800026/weekly-events-update-from-oll-5800407?e=9a4596ce10#FYI>.

Since almost sixty years ago when a group of friends began to pool resources to share a bequest of 300 books with the Oaxacan community, the OLL has evolved into a vibrant not-for-profit bilingual lending library and cultural and educational center that fosters solidarity and appreciation, while promoting community empowerment.

