

Committee Reports

November 20, 2025

Terrace Talks

Members: David Myler, Carol Ringold, Linda Farthing, Gail Ament

We met Nov. 6. Items of interest:

Fall training of volunteers is scheduled for Nov. 24.

Doug Long as guest reported only one video was sold last year, but streaming accounts for 5% of TT income. TT needs a marketing person.

We voted on the brochure.

Following Día de los Muertos, we've had dismally low registration, cancelling 3 events.

Linda is recruiting speakers through Welte.

- Gail Ament

Social

Nov. 5

Members: Enaj Schlak, David Myler, Larry Ginskey, Kate Hart, Carlos Landa, ad hoc member, Mary Rankin

We are holding meetings the first Wednesday of each month. Voted on the brochure

Approved tasteful place cards on plates at both Thanksgiving and Xmas with a message to donate to the library proposed by the 60th Anniversary fundraising committee.

Thanksgiving: 32 attendees and 19 van riders signed up so far. Open bar by Kate and Mary

Agreed to consider contracting with Casa Colonial again for the 4th of July, but only on committee terms, including a clear written agreement, with music and open bar to be provided by the committee. We will pursue other options if this doesn't work out.

There is interest in adding an event for Mexico Independence Day next September.

There is also interest in decorating the library for Valentine's Day.

-Bonny Weil

Tech

The tech team continues to work behind the scenes.

- 2 UPS Battery backups have been ordered. One to replace the nonfunctioning UPS for Adriana's computer and the security system. The 2nd is for the streaming computer to prevent interruptions during live stream events.
- Discussions are at a preliminary stage to consider reworking & upgrading the OLL website in 2026
- Changes have been made to the OLL Kiosk.

- o With the demise of the Oaxaca Events website, Posters are now being added and deleted daily. See them by clicking on the Events button on the Kiosk
- o A new rotating banner has been incorporated at the bottom of the Kiosk landing page. This gives extra exposure to advertisers that have purchased 1-year plans for the Kiosk and newsletter. The hope is this encourages others to buy 1-year plans.
- A new high-quality handheld wireless microphone has been recently purchased. The handheld microphones used last year at the Terrace Talks cut out regularly.
- The tech committee opted not to fully spend its budget for 2025 for computers and audio-visual equipment. Discussions are taking place now to establish budgets for these categories for 2026.
- Meetings have been held with the 60th Anniversary task force exploring the possibility of updating the OLL logo to include the name Biblioteca OLL.
- Work is in progress to include a revised website page and payment methods to accommodate the 60th Anniversary fundraising campaign.
- Members of the tech team have been making preparations and scheduling volunteers for the AV support for the Terrace Talks.

-Doug Long

Books

Members: Sara Boskovich, Diana Carr, Siobhan Grogan, Kate Hart, Joyce Hinton, Gabrielle Larew, Peter McCallion, David Myler, Cathy Pekel, Liz Renn, Patricia Saull, Shannon Sheppard. Board Liaison: Gail Ament.

Circulation: 948 items

Fines collected: 2,538 pesos

Book Sale income: 5,504 pesos

Activities:

Mobile book display: Dia de los Muertos

Mobile book display: Bilingual Books

Improved signage in Fiction, Mystery and Science Fiction sections

Purchased Fiction and Nonfiction books

Staffed Circulation Desk

Shelved books, magazines and DVDs

Trained volunteers in shelving and other tasks

Gave tours to visitors and new members

Catalogued new and donated books

Managed Wish List and communicated with donors

Accepted, evaluated, and organized book donations

Administered and managed Book Sale; continued successful online book sales

Provided readers advisory to users

Continued weeding/de-accessioning English Fiction according to Collection Development

Policy guidelines

Continued to update "Recommended Reading" on OLL website
Participated in 2026 Library Anniversary Celebration Task Force
Communicated with Authors for future Book & Author Talks

- Siobhan Grogan

Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee met on October 28th and November 6th. All members were in attendance on the 28th and 6th. On the 6th Gail Ament and Marirose Lescher were also in attendance. The main goal of both meetings was to make sure the fundraising process for the OLL was staying on track.

It was decided:

To send out an appeal in the November 15th newsletter in coordination with a letter from Gail and posting the appeal on the website.

To work in coordination with the 60th Celebration Task Force to continue to raise funds for all of 2026

To increase our goal to 2,000,000 pesos

To begin individual appeals to donate as of the 15th as well.

To make sure there is an appropriate form at the front desk to track donations made to the desk staff.

To work with the social committee to create a book stack to track giving and encourage giving.

To include in our campaign the premise that we will be doing an annual giving campaign.

-Carol Ringold

Finance

November 11, 2025 Time: 1:00 pm

Present: Ralph Gault, Gordon Hawley, Adriana Pérez Maldonado. Absent: Marirose Lecher, John Dumser

Budget 2026

- Requests to prepare committee budgets were sent out.
- Bliss and Ian have already submitted budgets.
- Ralph will collect all committee budgets on November 14th and review with the board on
- November 20th .

Treasurer

Our treasurer, John Dumser has given his notice of resignation to the President effective immediately.

- John will prepare the treasurer's report for the next meeting which will be his final.
- John has also prepared salary information from Isabel and Adriana for the Budget 2026
- and shared with the President.

Fundraising

- The Finance Committee voted as to keep or destroy the brochure with a vote of Keep-0,
- Destroy=3 and Abstain=2
- The committee does not know how the 60-year celebration and the Outreach to communities will function. More clarification is required.
- The committee supports ongoing fundraising such as an Annual Giving campaign at the beginning of each year.

Meeting ended: 1:45 pm

Next meeting: December 12, 2025

-Ralph Gault

Volunteer

Meeting shortly to begin planning Volunteer Recognition event in February

-Dottie Bellinger

Outreach

1. Update on the *Calenda Literaria*

The committee has been actively working on the logistics for the *Calenda Literaria* (Literary Parade) to ensure compliance and smooth execution.

- **Permit Application Process:** We are currently in the process of determining the necessary steps and requirements for securing the three required official permits:
 - Municipal Government Permit (related to public events).
 - Municipal Traffic Commission Permit (for route closure and traffic control).
 - Federal Electricity Commission Permit (for power usage, if required).
- **Musical Band Costs:** We are awaiting a detailed quote regarding the cost associated with hiring the Banda Filarmónica Infantil-Juvenil (*banda de música*) of Santa Cecilia, Agencia Vicente Guerrero, Zaachila. This band is integrated by children and teenagers. We think, this band would be a good addition for our *Calenda Literaria*
- **Date Adjustment:** The event date has been rescheduled to January 23rd, 2026. This change was necessary due to a recent modification in the local school calendar; the children participating in the *Calenda* will now return to school on January 12th instead of the original date of January 6th.

2. Activating the Children's Reading Room (Sala Infantil)

In an effort to revitalize and increase the usage of the Children's Reading Room, the Outreach Committee has focused on securing a Social Service (480 hours) student to manage and promote the space.

- **University Collaboration:** The committee has successfully established contact with Universidad La Salle to promote a Social Service opportunity among students.
- **Position Development:** We have completed the detailed description and requirements for the Social Service position, specifically seeking a student with a background in Educational Sciences (Ciencias de la Educación or similar Bachelor).
- **Next Steps:** We will continue liaising with Universidad La Salle to disseminate the position description among eligible students who wish to fulfill their Social Service requirements at the OLL.

-Viviana Ruiz Boijseauneau

Facilities

The facilities committee members: Doug Long, David Myler, Tom Holloway and Ian Hawley met on Monday, Oct 10 to tour the library and discuss tasks and projects to include in the 2026 OLL Budget. This is the list of considerations. The committee will now assign priorities and estimated cost for these items.

- Ceiling patching and painting various locations. Back fiction room and front desk area specifically
- Replace light switch in upstairs bathroom Install additional ceiling fan(s) at terrace
- Check leaf accumulation in terrace gutters.
- Construct expanded water catchment system at terrace.
- Repair not functioning security camera viewing terrace on LPP side
- Buy additional tables and chairs for terrace. Tables range from 560 to 680 each.
- Raise 3 tinacos, welded framework. Re plumb and add more valves to isolate for any future pipe breaks.
- Additional signage
- Evacuation signage.
- Cut back concrete overhang at 2nd staircase.
- Possibly replace 1 toilet on 1st floor
- Possible construct 2 additional rolling partitions for terrace

-Doug Long

Excursions

I apologize for the late report. This focuses on Day of the Dead, since that officially starts our season. This year we changed focus a bit for tours, avoiding bringing people to cemeteries without a specific focus. We felt that we needed to do more to make these truly educational, in line with our application for Donataria status. Therefore we offered five tours:

- Night lighting of the Cempasúchil fields (a first for us)
- Tamales, mole and mezcal
- Archeological site, market and wall art walk in Zaachila
- Flower fields, moles and altar building in Ocotlán
- Cemetery visit with speaker to San Antonio Castillo Velasco cemetery

Our net income for these tours and three additional hikes was \$33,150 MXN. We had originally projected \$55,000 of net income for Day of the Dead activities. The discrepancy was caused by:

- The original budget projection for tour expenses was off by a substantial amount
- The three hikes we offered actually lost money. Participants were positive, but we did not have enough participation for positive net income.

Note that hike expenses have increased by nearly 25% from last season, even after tough negotiations with our provider. We have raised fees to compensate, but this combined with a drop in tourists, may make matching the latter part of our 2025 hiking budget difficult. The hiking subcommittee will be meeting to determine next steps after looking at all of November's hikes.

-Dottie Bellinger

Nominating

Our current report: we have confirmed our two Director at Large nominees and will be spending the next two weeks ensuring we've done our due diligence to confirm the President and Secretary nominations as well. Our current plan is for me to present our nominations to the board at the December meeting."

-BJ Ferguson

Welcome to Oaxaca – No Report

-Bliss Wilson