

**OAXACA LENDING LIBRARY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2025**

AGENDA.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

GUESTS: Jeff Stewart and Dave Iverson

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Día de Muertos: altar, talks and tours

Bazaar: Dec. 14

Elections Nominating Committee

Resident African Americans and the OLL

Updated handouts on Intercambios and Niños/Jóvenes Adelante

Terrace Inspection

TREASURER'S REPORT

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

Donataria Autorizada

Update from 60th Anniversary Fundraising Subcommittee: Jeff Stewart and Carol Ringold

Update from 60th Anniversary Celebration Task Force: John Dumser and John Hunter

OLL and Libros para pueblos

Priority items from website to be translated to Spanish now? John Dumser

Spanish name of OLL: Biblioteca de Préstamo de Oaxaca?

Panel sponsored by Democrats Abroad: David Shallenberger. Final decision?

Formalize policy on receiving packages for members. How to disseminate policies?

OLL and digital nomads/younger demographic [Resources from Linda Farthing and BJ Ferguson pages 3-5](#)

NEW BUSINESS

Compilation of an OLL directory: Bonny Weil

What makes OLL unique among libraries?

Use of Spanish and English on OLL signage and publications

Discussion: "Communication sucks at OLL."

Which donors receive a thank-you and from whom

Website: Seek underwriter to pay for the services of a professional to update website?

Training for Greeters. We are all Greeters. Use of name tags when volunteering.

Do we want to "grow" Niños/Jóvenes Adelante?

Celebrating staff birthdays

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Spotty compliance

OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

Excerpt from BJ Fergusons's Oct. 13 email:

One thing that came up that I wanted to speak to was the discussion about hours. I think it was Doug who said that the hours currently cater to the extranjero, the retired person, so I wanted to point out that a lot of visitors to Oaxaca these days are not retired people. Remote work has really changed the demographics of long-term visitors. Most of the people I know coming to Oaxaca for several months at a time these days are my age or younger, and so are often working during the weekday hours. I know this came up in the small focus group that Linda did about attracting a younger audience.

Linda Farthing <lindafarthing@gmail.com>

Mar 11, 2025,
2:03 AM

to me, David, Carol, peter

**Notes from Linda Farthing's informal meeting with Lauren Biehl, BJ Van koot, Osa, and Maya de la Torres
February 24, 2025** *(please feel free to share these with whoever you think appropriate)*

Everyone (except me!) is between 30 and 50; all white, middle-class females. Two from the US, one from Canada and one bicultural US/Mexico. With the exception of Osa who comes for several months a year, all live here year-round. Lauren works on the gringo water committee (Friends of Oaxaca water), BJ is a Terrace Talks Committee event manager and Maya has just joined the TTC. Osa doesn't have any relationship with either the library or other groups

Goal of the conversation: Brainstorm how to engage the under-65 crowd throughout the year at OLL and particularly during the snowbird off-season.

Challenges:

The biggest take away is that everyone thinks the library programming is terrific and interesting to them and their

friends, but program timing isn't accessible to folk who work M-F daytimes. There is very little available evenings and weekends.

Ideas: promote one big evening or weekend talk/event per month (time frame 6:30-8:30 pm). Strong suggestion to make a flyer and post it to advertise events.

Some suggestions for other types of events (which of course have all been discussed before) were

- Film nights (particularly Mexican cinema)
- Book club
- Social events for younger people such as music nights or themed socials
- Hands on workshops on weekends (such as crafts, dance etc)
- Yoga, dance
- Explore having the library designate times to be a coworking space. Promote it as a coworking space with free wifi, 20 pesos water; Serve yourself coffee (and charge for it??)
- Game Nights
- Craft night

Some more brainstorming ideas:

Hold a weekend Welcome to Oaxaca- how to take busses & other practical info, how Oaxaca works, health food stores, hard to find things in Oaxaca, etc

Mexico Indie Film Screenings & Discussion afterwards; Partner with Cinema Cuervo; Cineyekuk Danzon talk and dance instruction; Cooking Classes; Culture of Oaxaca and Mexico; History; Politics; Municipalities; Infrastructure; How it's different than other countries in Latin America;

Promotion: WhatsApp groups; Oaxaca Women; Oaxaca Diversion Instagram; Coffee Shops; Coworking; List of Volunteer opportunities could be provided with new library memberships; questions on library membership form for what types of volunteering you'd like to get involved in.

Fyi: Some of the places the younger expat crowd currently hangs out:

Convivio; Sala Toro on Humbolt; Selina Hostel (5 De Mayo y Morelos); Wombat (younger, bilingual; karaoke;

dancing; hosts events; movies); coffee shops; Brujala coffee shop; Casa Seiba; Matamoros 404; Casa Seiba; Casa Bestia queer events on the other side of Conzatti park; Filamon porfirio diaz y near fandango.

Conclusion:

There was some interest/willingness to help get activities directed to the younger set off the ground. So, the discussion was less “the library should” and more “what can we do to make the library more useful and used by our age group” which was terrific.

This is a preliminary discussion and I await to hear comments and suggestions for followup if you agree we should try to move on it in some way.