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## 111 E. Ojai Avenue, Ojai, CA 93023

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# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 30, 2022

SUBJECT: **Magic or Medicine?** – An author presentation by Cynthia Louise Grier – at the Ojai Library

CONTACT: Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian, (805) 218-9146

## DATE: Saturday, January 28, 2023; 1pm

Local Ojai author Cynthia Louise Grier will visit the Ojai Library at **1pm on Saturday, January 28, 2023**, to deliver a talk titled **“Magic or Medicine? Grimoires and Healing Amulets in *The Muse of Freedom: a Cevenoles Sagas Novel*.”** Grier, who writes under the *nom de plume* Jules Larimore, will share a bit of history and examples of these healing devices often thought to be magic.

Set in late Renaissance France, 1695-97, *The Muse of Freedom: a Cevenoles Sagas Novel* tells a story of a young nobleman training as an apothecary as he unravels his Huguenot family’s legacy of secrets and embarks on an odyssey in search of his spiritual identity and the meaning of love. In the Gorges du Tarn, he meets a mystic holy-woman who reveals ancient healing mysteries and inspires his quest for freedom. But persecutions by Louis XIV’s dragoons force him to make a fateful decision—recreant, rebel, or refugee.

Inspired by the true story of Jean Pierre Bondurant dit Cougoussac, the story delves into the traditional folk healing practices of Cévenoles, the people of the Cévennes mountains in south-central France. There will be a discussion of the recipe books, often referred to as grimoires, and amulets that were commonly used for healing purposes, along with a short reading from the novel of a healing session using these seemingly magical tools.

Influenced by a background in freelance travel writing, Jules Larimore writes emotive, literary-leaning historical fiction to inspire positive change for the oppressed and refugees, and to encourage an intimate relationship with the natural environment. With a Bachelor of Arts from Indiana University, Jules has studied medieval history, ancient Greek culture, anthropology, folklore, narrative composition, and architectural design, and has trained under writing geniuses Libbie Grant (Libbie Hawker/Olivia Hawker) and Roz Morris.

Jules lives primarily in Ojai, California, with time spent around the U.S. and in various countries in Europe gathering more treasures in a continued search for authenticity. For more information, visit [www.juleslarimore.com](http://www.juleslarimore.com).

This event is free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian, at (805) 218-9146 or [ron.solorzano@ventura.org](mailto:ron.solorzano@ventura.org).

The Ojai Library is located at 111 East Ojai Avenue in Ojai, CA. Hours of service are 10am to 8pm Monday through Thursday and 12pm to 5pm Friday through Sunday.

*Ventura County Library:  
Inspiring our community to explore, discover and connect.*

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* Albert H. Soliz Library, 2820 Jourdan Street, Oxnard, CA 93036

Heritage Valley branches:

* Fillmore Library, 502 2nd Street, Fillmore, CA 93015
* Piru Library, 3811 Center Street, Piru, CA 93040

Mobile Library <https://www.vencolibrary.org/locations/mobile-library>

Oak Park branch:

* Oak Park Library, 899 North Kanan Road, Oak Park, CA 91377

Ojai Valley region branches:

* Meiners Oaks Library, at Meiners Oaks Elementary—coming 2023
* Oak View Library, 555 Mahoney Avenue, Oak View, CA 93022
* Ojai Library, 111 East Ojai Avenue, Ojai, CA 93023

Port Hueneme branch:

* Ray D. Prueter Library, 510 Park Avenue, Port Hueneme, CA 93041

Ventura region branches:

* Avenue Library, 606 North Ventura Avenue, Ventura, CA 93001
* E.P. Foster Library, 651 East Main Street, Ventura, CA 93001
* Hill Road Library, 1070 S. Hill Road, Ventura, CA 93003
* Saticoy Library, 1292 Los Angeles Avenue, Ventura, CA 93004

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