

FOREWORD



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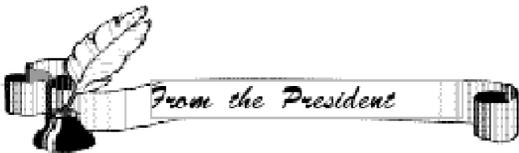


Trip to the Antiquarian Book Fair

Join other Friends for a day trip by coach to the 36th California International Antiquarian Book Fair in downtown San Francisco on Saturday, Feb. 8. Over 230 booksellers from 25 states and nine countries will exhibit at the fair, offering rare and antiquarian books, manuscripts and related materials priced from a few dollars to hundreds of thousands.

The fair features early printed books, illustrated books, fine bindings, early American literature, modern first editions, children's books, maps, autographs and antiquarian books on law, architecture, economics, gastronomy, wine and scores of other fields.

(Continued on page 2)



It is a new beginning—the year of '03, of course, but also a “new beginning” for FOPAL. With five new members joining the Board last fall plus five who have served less than a year there should be lots of new library lovin' energy out there.

Here is a thumbnail sketch of each Board member so you'll know whom to contact concerning your newest idea for our libraries. I am starting a term as president; served on FOPAL's Board from 1990 to 2000 and with husband Tom managed the Friends' book sales from 1994 to 2000. I am indeed honored to lead FOPAL and hope that we can break some new ground.

(Continued on page 3)



Measure D's Failure: What Next?

Measure D, a \$49.1 million ballot measure to repair and rebuild two city libraries, failed to garner the required two-thirds approval in the Nov. 5 election. With 11,490 “yes” votes and 7,237 “no” votes, the measure was defeated.

In light of that defeat, we asked a variety of community activists their opinions on what, if anything, should be done next to improve libraries:

Karen White, campaign manager for Yes on D: “There's still an urgent need to repair and renovate our libraries, and we need to find a way to accomplish that. I'm optimistic that a measure can pass when the economy is better.”

Jean Wilcox, co-campaign manager for No on D: “It's a closed case for now, but it won't be. We've got so many other issues in the city to deal with—the storm drains, the underground wiring and the El Camino and other things, and we have a very reduced budget this year. My feeling is that this is not the year to rekindle the libraries. If the city's finances improve at some time in the future, we can look at libraries again, but I think we need to look at it in terms of what do we really need rather than what we want. If it does come back as an issue, it needs to be a greatly reduced size of library. Particularly the Mitchell Park Library is what I'm referring to when I say greatly reduced size of library.”

Lanie Wheeler, co-chair of Measure D Bond Committee: “It is my feeling that ultimately, and hopefully within the next couple of years, we'll address those things we failed to address in this bond measure campaign and we'll be able to convince the community by the strength of our very good

(Continued on page 2)

(Trip to the Book Fair continued from page 1)

The trip is sponsored by the Associates of the Stanford University Libraries, and we're sure you'll enjoy meeting their members as well. Tickets are about \$40 each and include admission to the fair, a light lunch at the fair, and two seminars. One session features **Nicholas Basbanes**, author of *A Gentle Madness*, speaking about book collecting strategy for the 21st century. The other features **John Dunning**, author of books about book collecting, speaking about hunting for books. Wine and cheese will be served on the return ride. The coach will leave at 10 a.m. from the Stanford campus and will leave San Francisco for the return at 4:15 p.m. Seats on the coach are limited, so please reserve yours today by contacting Sally Treadway at (650) 723-9426 or treadway@stanford.edu. **The reservation deadline is Jan. 31.**

— Jeff Levinsky

(What Next continued from page 1)

arguments that we do need to modernize and renovate our library system. I also firmly believe that we're not going to be able to do that until the economy begins to show signs of strengthening again. I think the solution or resolution is probably a couple of years away. I also think there's some possibility that we can seek and obtain private funding for the Children's Library, independent of other libraries, and we might want to pursue that in the interim."

Tom Wyman, Library Advisory Commission member:

"In the last election, over 60 percent voted to improve our libraries. This clear mandate of support for our libraries can be read as: 'Don't close any libraries, work to improve and expand our present libraries and strive to develop a library system that meets the expectations of Palo Altans.' There is much to be done to improve our libraries, and there is strong community support to get on with the job."

Wayne Martin, co-campaign manager for No on D:

"During the years 2001-2013, the City of Palo Alto estimates its revenues will be able about \$1.8 billion. Wisely spent, this seems like enough money to provide for both maintenance of existing facilities and construction of small/moderately-priced libraries. The libraries are currently Council-approved for expansion of about 800 percent, with an estimated cost of about \$225 million for construction costs/bond interest, and an unspecified amount for an approximate doubling of the staff raises the price by tens of millions more. Palo Alto cannot afford the library upgrade approved by the City Council in 2002, and should reconsider the future of its libraries in light of digital technologies which are currently, or soon will be, available."

Shelby Valentine, past president, Friends of the Palo Alto Libraries: "I think we just need to go back out again. I don't believe Measure D failed on the merits. I think it failed on the politics. On the merits the case is sound. The



Our Libraries Have Lots of Support

Although the Friends were very disappointed, of course, at the defeat of the Library Bond Measure, we recognize that there were a number of factors at work here: the down economy, bundling of proposed projects, unanswered questions, etc.

However, the good news resulting from the election is substantial. Over 61 percent of the voters supported our libraries; they voted to tax themselves for 30 years to improve our libraries. Over 1,800 people endorsed the Bond Measure; 900 displayed lawn signs; over 500 donated money and/or volunteered to work on the campaign. They walked precincts, they manned telephone banks, they recruited volunteers, they hosted coffees; they *worked* for their libraries.

So although the measure was defeated, the community certainly proved that it loves its libraries. I am convinced that there is extraordinary support for libraries in Palo Alto. We need to find ways to tap this so together we can do for our libraries what they can't do for themselves. To join in the fun, call us at 325-9483.

— Ellen Wyman

economy is not the stumbling block, but it's the awareness of the pervasiveness of the horrible state of our libraries. We need to raise the community's awareness of the needs of the library as well as the responsibility of voters to vote in favor of it so it will meet the incredibly high benchmark of two-thirds. The case is sound."

Richard Alexander, bond committee member: "Palo Alto always has had more than enough money for world class libraries, ending creek flooding, paving streets, pulling weeds, burying power lines and more, but council after council caves in to demands for more and more staff at higher and higher salaries. In 2001, the general operating budget was about \$130 million for 60,000 people, while Mountain View spent \$71 million for 71,610. They spent \$990 per resident while we spent \$2,166 per resident. Today we have about 800 highly paid non-utility employees, or 13.3 staff per 1,000 residents, while Mountain View has 8.3 per 1,000. At 8 per 1,000, Palo Alto should have 480 employees. If we trimmed our bloated staff of 800 by 200 we ought to be able to get by with 600 employees and we would have more than enough cash to have the best libraries in the U.S. and more. Lots more."

Paula Sandas, former board member, Friends of the Palo Alto Library: "Some of the needs of the libraries are so obvious. I think we need to pull back and assess what the failures were—what went wrong. We need to ask what kept voters from approving the plan, and look at approaching it

from a different angle, because the needs of the library are there. It needs to be examined. We need to figure out why. It's not like it lost by just four or five votes—it was quite a few votes that made the difference. There was a big enough gap that I think we need to look at what some of the issues were for people who voted no.”

— **Chris Kenrick**

(From the President, continued from page 1)

Norma Burchard, a book sale volunteer and a retired key member of a number of other non-profit boards, brings to our Board a wealth of wisdom and business insight along with being the unrivaled master of the quick quip and jolly jest.

Wendy Akers-Ghose, our Mrs. PAUSD, serves as our secretary. Wendy, who has served as PTA president at two local schools and is currently newsletter editor for Gunn High School, is a quick study and a most effective Board member.

John Burt (bookmanjohn@worldnet.att.net), a book collector and special advisor for our book sales, has bravely taken on the job of treasurer, a herculean task. With our book sales, an annual \$100,000+ business in itself, a variety of restricted funds and investments accounts to track and as chairman of our Endowment Committee, John stays busy.

Bob Otnes, our engineering mathematician Ph.D. and long-time loyal book sale volunteer, will work with John in managing our finances through the Finance Committee, which oversees our investments and endowment funds.

Althea Andersen, a stalwart book sale volunteer who with her snazzy pickup truck does yeoman service in transporting books between Terman and Cubberley and in picking up boxes of book donations, will continue as book sale volunteer and stand-in book sale manager.

Gretchen Emmons, past FOPAL president and long-time dedicated Board member, devotes countless hours in assisting at the Downtown Library and oversees our Library Lovers Fund.

Bob Moss is new to our Board, and with his wealth of practical knowledge and experience in City operations, he will serve as our liaison to the Library Advisory Commission. New challenges to match his broad capabilities will be his as time goes along.

Chris Kenrick, former journalist with the *Christian Science Monitor*, is our well-qualified editor of this newsletter and, in addition, co-chairs our Publicity and Public Relations Committee.

Jeff Levinsky is a terrific idea guy who, in addition to co-chairing our Publicity and Public Relations Committee, serves as our imaginative Webmaster. Just key in on <http://www.friendspaloaltolib.org> and see for yourself.

Gerry Masteller, former co-owner of the Printers Inc. Bookstore and special advisor to our book sale volunteers, brings a world of practical business expertise to our Board, which will prove invaluable in the coming year.

Shantha Mohan, a former vice president of software engineering and manager of software development, is--like Jeff--a technological whiz. As a hands-on can-do type her plate is full as chair of our Membership Committee, member of the Publicity and Public Relations Committee and layout editor of Foreword.

Marty Paddock, our amazing and tireless book sale leader, is now in her third year of boosting book sales. This astounding bionic woman oversees sales at two locations, tracks over 100 volunteers and offers several hundred thousand books for sale annually--which generates over \$100,000 per year.

Cecilia Rodriguez, a former foreign correspondent with postings to places worldwide, is a key book sale volunteer and who produces our advertising, oversees our displays and much more.

Barbara Silberling has served in a variety of Board roles including most recently as Chair of the Nominating Committee (kudos to her for assembling our present powerhouse Board). She now manages our Bargain Book Sale Room at Terman and will step into committee assignments where most needed.

Karen White, manager of the recent Measure D library bond campaign joined our Board last year and overflows with ideas and enthusiasm for a major FOPAL membership drive. This is the key to developing additional library support and for the future of our organization. You'll be hearing from Karen.

Shelby Valentine, our illustrious and hard working president for the last three years, says she will now decompress and serve as “the immediate past president.” We're not sure she knows how to “decompress” but she's earned the opportunity to do so!

This is indeed a powerhouse Board, long on energy and enthusiasm and even longer on innovative ideas. At the same time we need the input from members at large. Do you have ideas or suggestions? Do you see where we can improve our performance? And if you'd like to volunteer in whatever capacity contact me at 325-9483 or at ellenandtom@sbcglobal.net. We'd love to have you join our team and we have opportunities for everyone.

— **Ellen Wyman, President**



'The Dog Ate My Library Book'

When it comes to excuses for overdue library books, Rose Sebastian has heard them all.

'I'm getting divorced, and my wife won't let me back into the house to get the book,' is a plea she has heard more than once.

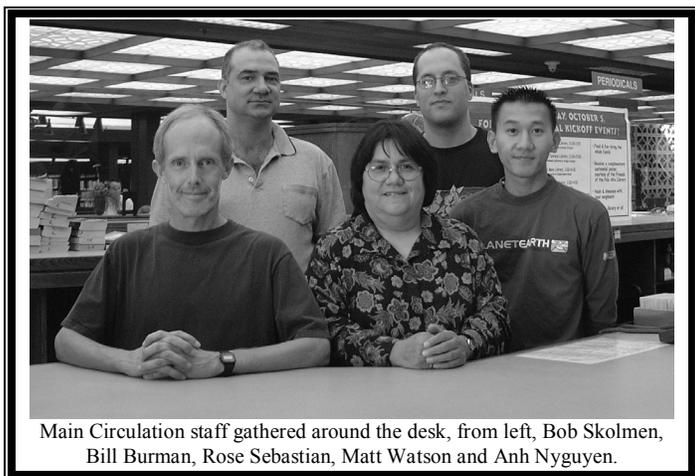
Another patron had her car stolen, with all her library books inside.

Another was a man who said he had a problem with his memory and had not remembered to return his library books. When Sebastian glanced at the stack, she noticed they were all on the subject of memory.

"We do see some interesting and creative excuses," Sebastian said. "But most of our patrons return things on time."

Good excuses or not, the library reserves the final word on abuses. If a person's lost or overdue balance exceeds \$10, that patron can no longer use his library card.

As Circulation Coordinator for all the libraries, Rose Sebastian is the one who gets called when a library patron wants to make excuses for not paying a bill. Or when a long lost library book is finally returned after many years.



Main Circulation staff gathered around the desk, from left, Bob Skolmen, Bill Burman, Rose Sebastian, Matt Watson and Anh Nguyen.

This past year, a book that had been due back in 1972 was finally returned. However, the item long ago had been erased from the library's records.

"We purge patrons after so many years if they owe us money and also, we remove an item after so many years and there's no longer a record of that book so fines don't accrue," Sebastian explained.

"People in this community do want to pay their fines immediately," Sebastian noted. "They want to pay that 25 cents right away."

In March of this year, overdue fines were raised to 25 cents a day. Previously, they had been 20 cents a day for about a decade.

Palo Alto libraries took in more than \$166,000 last year, the vast majority from overdue fines and payments for lost books.

The library's circulation period changed not long ago, to three weeks from four weeks. It had been lengthened to four weeks some years ago when libraries were so short-staffed they could not keep up with the check-ins. With slightly increased staffing recently, the library restored the three-week circulation period, making it easier for people waiting for books and also keeping up with general trends at other libraries.

With a staff of four full-time employees, one part-time employee and several hourly clerks, Sebastian's department runs the circulation desk at Main Library and performs numerous circulation-related functions for the five other libraries, including running overdue notices and various reports, maintaining the computer, handling inter-library loans and collecting money.

Patrons at Main and Mitchell Park libraries no longer even need a human librarian to take out books. They can use the self-checking machines available at those libraries. However, most still seem to prefer the human touch. At Main Library, only about 14 percent of patrons use the self-checking machine, and that percentage is even smaller at Mitchell Park.

— Chris Kenrick



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome to the new members of FOPAL:

Leon & Margaret Beeler, Don C. DeJongh, Mae W. Ding, Irwin Lavenberg, John C. Lukrich, and Brent White.

As always, we are also most grateful for those of you who sent in your renewal:

Bernard Aarons, Kenneth Allen, Deborah Angel, Jane & Bill Bloom, Molly Breen, Roberta Brosnahan & Robert Odom, Marcie & Chet Brown, Roland & Dawn Chase, Leah Chodorow, Sue & Wilson Cooper, Daniel Cox, Judy & Martin Deggeller, David & Sarah Epstein, Carolyn Gale, Gloria Goldberg, Conyers & Louise Herring, Leonard Krasner, Janet Leigh, Barbara &

Targe Lindsay, Marian Lockwood, Jean London, Elli & Dick Mansfield, Brenda Miller, Martin & Ruth Odell, Marge & Walter Peterson, John Perkins, Hal Plotkin, Jeanne Pomeroy, Emily Renzel, William Schuyler, Robert & Georgia Schwaar, Gene Serge, Phillip & Anna Smith, Ramkumar Subramanian, Pajo Vujkovic-Cvijin, E.S. Wallace, Herbert Weidner, Barry & Lettie Weinmann, and Marilyn Wiebenson.

For many of you, it is time to renew your membership! Please check the label on this newsletter and use the printed form if your membership has expired.

You can also use your charge card on-line by visiting our website at www.friendspaloaltolib.org.

— Shantha Mohan



The Show Must Go On

The City originally agreed to move the Book Sale from Terman to Cubberley, so I assured the volunteers that we wouldn't have to do anything. Then the City said it was too expensive after all. We did not want to spend \$6,500 either.

Edwin El-Kareh offered to rent a truck and move the bookcases. **Ray Jadwin** decided to repair our bookcases so the wheels would work. **Ed Walker** assisted and the two of them got our bookcases in perfect shape.

Cecilia Rodriguez took on the job of showing the “movers” where to position the bookcases and where the books would go on sale day. This tied Cecilia up for many long hours. **Tom Wyman** stepped in to help harass authorities, jury-rig a setup for light, etc. **Althea Andersen, John Burt** and **Ray Jadwin** helped hang the skyhooks.

On sale day, Althea braved the storm to direct traffic, bring in signs, close up shop, etc. She also brought the “chai” to drink and wore Ray's miner's light as she greeted folks at the door.

The sale would not have happened without **Letty Bird, Rose Giamalis, Micki Zatz, Carolyn Long, Miriam Landesman, Karen Bobonich, Ed and Verne Rice, Helen and Hershel Smith, Sarah Clark, Bob Schwaar, Tinker Spar, Barbara Sloan, and Frenchie Perry. Emmy Lou Miller** was on the Internet, and **Betty Moore** did sorting, pricing and arranging at two locations. **Marian Knox** not only put in her usual long hours, brought flowers to the sale,

etc., but also discovered a false report in the Daily, and with her husband **Naphtali's** help, got it corrected.

The kids' corner was beautiful thanks to **Lucy LaPier, Georgia Schwaar, Winnie McGannon** and **Carolyn Davidson**. Usual volunteers who weren't scheduled to work came and worked on our December sale day: **Alice Gross, Becky Spitzer, Elsbeth Newfield** and **Anne Pollack** all came and helped anyway. We needed them. Our new neighbors at Cubberley, **David** and **Joy Swift**, offered help and encouragement!

Edwin and **Lena El-Kareh** moved one truckload of books for a trial run, then the next day drove the truck back and forth, back and forth, to move bookcases, chairs, carts, etc, as well as 20,000 books. They were life-savers.

The **Kiwanis Club** once more stepped into the breach, and under the leadership of **Suzanne Bayley** helped us move, loading, unloading and driving their own vans and cars. They were back later to give us a hand unpacking.

Assistant City Manager **Emily Harrison** is responsible for finding us a new home and for striving to get things done on time. In addition to these Herculean tasks she came and helped us pack books and move furniture and laugh with us.

(Continued on page 6)



Butterfields Sells FOPAL Fine Art

Sometimes it takes a village. Sometimes it takes a generous donor, a volunteer of considerable expertise—and Butterfields!

This time it took the stunningly generous donation of the considerable library and notographic files and paintings belonging to John D. La Plante, professor of Asian Art History and former director of the Stanford Art Museum. John, in the last month of his life, donated all of this to the FOPAL Endowment Fund, saying Palo Alto's libraries were very special to him.

The books and art files, slides, etc., delighted our Book Sale customers for months, but it took Book Sale volunteer Karen Bacon, art consultant and former Butterfields staff member to lead us through the process of selling two paintings through that firm.

Edward DeWitt Taylor's rural landscapes entitled “Evening Near Castroville” sold for \$500 and Orrin White's “A High Sierra Lake” sold for \$5,000. Many thanks for John La Plante's generosity and Karen's know-how. It took them both.

— Ellen Wyman

(Show must go on, continued from page 5)

Barbara Silberling took over the Bargain Room at Terman for the sale, and will be its new manager. Thanks to all of you, and to all whose names weren't included.

— **Marty Paddock**



You Wouldn't Believe— Our Book Sale Space Saga

You wouldn't believe the series of hurdles, delays, run-arounds, back-ups and start-agains involved in getting space at Cubberley Community Center where FOPAL could continue its Book Sale.

- On December 17, 2001 we advised the City Council under oral communications that after September 2002 the school district would reoccupy the classrooms at Terman that Friends were using for their monthly Book Sales. We requested Council to direct staff to give priority to helping Friends locate space where we could continue our Book Sales. The City Manager expressed support for Friends and said he wanted the issue resolved.
- Within a couple of months, staff told Friends that they could install several portable units in a dirt parking lot at Cubberley to give us some 1,900 square feet of space for our Book Sales. We advised the City that this was entirely inadequate as we were then operating out of about 6,900 square feet. We were told that no additional space could be allocated to Friends as additional parking spaces could not be relinquished. An impasse?
- By May, the City reconsidered and said they could install portables on the dirt parking lot to give Friends 4,320 square feet of space. We thought progress was being made.
- Time went on, and in July we learned that portables would be installed in the dirt parking lot to accommodate the Jewish Community Center; thus, the space would not be available to Friends. The City then began exploring the possibility of locating Friends' portables in an asphalt area adjacent to Gym B where we could use the roof overhangs on sale days to display and sell books, thus adding substantially to our working space.
- After what seemed to be endless discussions among various staff groups, we were advised that we could not use the asphalt area next to the gym. Back to square one.
- The search for alternative space finally came down to the area where we are now located and where the City said they could install portable units giving us 3,600 square feet of space. The school district graciously extended our eviction date one

month and the October sale became our last sale using the Terman classrooms.

- The City continued to flail with administrative details and atrociously wet weather in getting the portables installed. In November, with no place else to go, all that Friends could do was to hold a "mini book sale" in two rooms at Terman.
- Thanks to the concerted and dedicated efforts of Book Sale and Kiwanis Club volunteers, it was possible to begin moving from Terman into the Cubberley portables in early December, just days before our sale.
- On the day of our December sale we had no electricity, no heat and the roof leaked. Only through the "true grit" of our devoted volunteers was it possible to hold a December "really windy, rainy day" book sale in the cold, dank, dark, unheated, drippy wet confines of four joined-together portables.
- Finally, on January 2 after badgering the City for weeks and more than a year after putting the City on notice that we were being evicted from Terman, the lights came on! We are still awaiting the installation of roof overhangs to shelter our customers from the weather and provide temporary storage space for their purchases.

Now the challenge is to see what efficiencies can be effected at Cubberley so we can reach our previous sales levels of \$10,000 to \$12,000 per month in about one half the space we had at Terman.

— **Tom Wyman**



Poster Wins Award

Palo Alto's library centennial poster won first place in the 2002 PR Excellence Awards from the California Library Association's Public Relations Committee, in the category of Special Programs. The award was a tie with Berkeley Public Library, and was announced at the annual conference in Sacramento Nov. 17.

The Friends of the Palo Alto Library produced the poster last spring to commemorate the 100th year of city support for the library, for use during two years of library celebrations. Shelby Valentine, who was president of the Friends at the time, deserves a big thank you for her work in the implementation of the poster, which was designed by artist Paul Sinn.

Each of the six libraries has a framed copy for viewing. A limited number of unframed posters were available at no charge to the public, and leftovers were widely distributed throughout Palo Alto school classrooms.

—Adapted from City Manager's Memo, 11/20/02



JOIN THE FRIENDS!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Membership Fees

Friend \$15

Family Friends \$25

Patron Friend \$40

Sustaining Friend \$100

Lifetime Friend \$250

The last dues reminder you'll get!

Please check here if this is a renewal.

Please don't send me the newsletter.

Please keep my name off the membership list.

Renewing members: Please make any changes to your current address on this form. If no changes, leave it blank (your address label on the other side is all we need).

I would like to volunteer:

Fund raising committee

Staffing Book sales

Art and Graphics

Friends Board

Program and project assistance

Membership

Friends Publicity

Newsletter

Posters, brochures

Distribution, mailing

Do it on the Web!

Now there is an easy way to join or renew using your credit card – on the web. Go to our website and follow the link for joining via **Network for Good**.

Friends of the Palo Alto Library, P.O. Box 41, Palo Alto CA 94302-0041

Please make checks payable to the Friends of the Palo Alto Library

For more information see: <http://www.friendspaloaltolib.org/>

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Palo Alto, CA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Web Page: <http://www.friendspaloaltolib.org/>

Email: info@paloaltofriendslib.org

<p>Monthly Book Sales: Second Saturday Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Rd. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bargain books will be sold at Terman Library site at 661 Arastradero Road in Palo Alto.</p>	<p>Board of Directors Meeting: First Wednesday Lucie Stern Community Center Community Room, 1305 Middlefield Road 8:30 to 10 a.m.</p>
<p>Library Commission: Fourth Thursday Council Conference Room, 260 Hamilton Ave. 7 p.m.</p> <p>See http://www.city.palo-alto.ca.us/clerk/schedule.html to confirm meeting date and time.</p>	<p>Book Discussion Group: Second Thursday Lucie Stern Community Center Fireside Room 1305 Middlefield Road 7:30 to 9 p.m. For information, call Crystal 961-1528</p> <p>Feb 13th Desert Queen Janet Wallach March 13th River Town Peter Hessler April 10th Meeting to Pick the Next Books</p> <p><i>For a list of the books reviewed in the past, driving directions, and other information, please visit our web page:</i> http://www.fopalbookgroup.homestead.com</p>

Friends of the Palo Alto Library (FOPAL) Board of Directors: Ellen Wyman, President; Norma Burchard, Vice-President; Wendy Akers-Ghose, Secretary; John Burt, Treasurer and Bob Otnes, Assistant Treasurer. Members: Althea Andersen, Gretchen Emmons, Chris Kenrick, Jeff Levinsky, Gerry Masteller, Shantha Mohan, Bob Moss, Marty Paddock, Cecilia Rodriguez, Barbara Silberling, Ann Shelby Valentine, Karen White. Library Representatives to the Board: Diane Jennings, Acting Director of Libraries; Coordinator, Downtown Library: Barbara Geibel. Foreword Staff: Chris Kenrick, Shantha Mohan; Webmaster: Jeff Levinsky; Circulation: Post Haste Direct Mail Service.