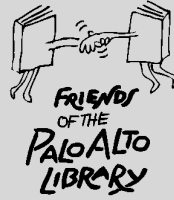


FOREWORD



Quarterly Issue No. 64

Summer 2004

The Benefits of Membership

Members-Only Book Sale in August

If you're a member of the Friends, be sure to come early to our August 14 Book Sale at Cubberley so you can shop in a less crowded fashion. The main book saleroom will open to the public at 11 a.m. as usual, but **life members of the Friends will be admitted at 9 a.m. and all other members at 10 a.m.** That gives our life members an hour or two in advance to enjoy the saleroom and find those wonderful bargains. Browse among 40,000 books, magazines, records, videos and more. If you're not already a member of Friends, you can join online (www.friendspaloaltolib.org), by mail or at the sale.

with Palo Alto in a vast interlibrary loan system, all available within a few blocks of her home.

This is an inspiring fact that many of us forget. We're often content with popping in at a library to see what's on the shelves and picking up a convenient video. But your Palo Alto library branch also has access to many millions of books accessible from other libraries. Chances are, if you ever hear of a book of interest to you, there's a way to borrow it through your local library.

(Continued on page 2)

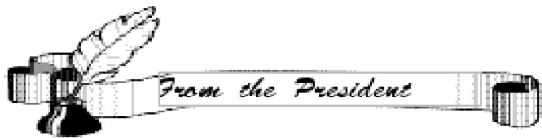


Bookstores Offer Discounts to Friends

New, renewing, and lifetime members of the Friends are now eligible for a 10 percent discount on certain purchases at Books Inc. in the Stanford Shopping Center and at Tower Books at San Antonio and El Camino. To get the discount, just show your Friends of the Palo Alto Library membership card at the store. Lifetime, new and renewing members will be receiving membership cards in the mail. Other members may pick up membership cards beginning in August at our regular monthly book sales. Just ask for the cashier who is handling membership cards in the main book saleroom. If you're not already a member of Friends, you can join online (www.friendspaloaltolib.org) or by mail.

We'd like to thank **Kathy Ziegler** of Books Inc. and **Mike Tausig** of Tower Records and Books for their generosity to our members. Kathy points out that her store also offers a Frequent Reader discount program on top of the 10 percent that our members receive. Mike Tausig says that the discount at his store applies to all regularly priced paperbacks and magazines, as hardback books are currently 20 percent off.

--Jeff Levinsky



"Portal to the World"

Janet Owens is 80, lives in Channing House in Palo Alto, and has a lifetime passion for libraries and books, as did her late husband. She loves mysteries and admits to having worked her way through the mystery shelves, reading every book. About twice a week she walks to the nearby downtown businesses and services, including the Downtown Library. Although that library doesn't always have what she's looking for on the shelves, she calls it her "portal to the world." That's because she sees her library as the doorway to an entire planet of information, via the Internet and the thousands of other libraries that participate

(Portal continued from page 1)

First, if any other Palo Alto library location has an item you want, you can request for free that it be transferred to your branch for pickup. This works whether the book is on the shelf at another branch or checked out. If the book is already available, it typically arrives at your branch within two business days. You can place the request from your home, school, or office using the Internet-based library catalog and often get the book sooner than your next chance to drive over to the other branch. To get to the online library catalog, just go to webcat.cityofpaloalto.org.

If none of the Palo Alto branches has your book, the catalog helps you search some nearby libraries. Starting from the tab called "Other Libraries," you can navigate to the online search pages for other Santa Clara County libraries. If you find the book you're looking for at one of those libraries, you can just go there to check it out for free (virtually all California public libraries will give you a library card if you're a California resident). If you don't want to go that far, the Palo Alto library can arrange an interlibrary loan from these other libraries, but there is a \$7.50 fee and a wait of several days. We're hopeful that technology will lower these costs and wait times in the future.

One problem you'll quickly discover is that you must search each of these library catalogs separately. If the book you're looking for is rare, it may take you several searches to find it. Each library's search page is organized somewhat differently, which can be confusing. The 35 public and community college libraries within San Mateo County, stretching from Menlo Park to South San Francisco and out to Half Moon Bay, have a unified catalog, which is much easier. Try it by going to catalog.pls.org ("pls" stands for the "Peninsula Library System") and search for a book that you're interested in. Just one search will tell you quickly which of the 35 participating libraries in San Mateo County have the book. Interlibrary loans are free within the Peninsula Library System, as are their library cards. With one, you can request that books you find on their system be sent to the Menlo Park or East Palo Alto library for you to pick up.

The Peninsula Library System's unified catalog is a great resource for those of us who live in neighboring Santa Clara County, and a wonderful example of how much easier things are for users when libraries cooperate. Still, it's just a small player among unified catalogs. At the top of the heap is unquestionably a spectacular system called WorldCat, operated out of Ohio by a non-profit consortium called OCLC (short for Online Computer Library Center). Essentially, WorldCat is a unified electronic catalog of over 9,000 public, college, and corporate library systems from around the world. Palo Alto, Mountain View, and the Santa Clara County Library System participate, as do Stanford University, the Library of Congress and the British Library. If these don't have the book you're seeking, perhaps it will

be in one of the more remote WorldCat members, such as the Biblioteca Inca in Bolivia or the University of Beijing in China.

What's wonderful about WorldCat is that it will tell you the nearest libraries that have the item you're looking for. Sometimes, that library is just down the block. At other times, it's a library halfway around the globe. WorldCat's power is that just one search checks thousands of libraries at once.

Sadly, WorldCat is not so easy to get to. OCLC provides the service to its member libraries, but those libraries don't necessarily in turn provide that access directly to users. For instance, the Palo Alto library staff has access to WorldCat, but it's not available on the library's public website. However, with a San Francisco Public Library card, which is freely available to California residents, you can search WorldCat over the Internet by starting at www.sfpl.org, clicking on *Articles and Databases*, and then selecting the *WorldCat* link near the bottom of the page.

Some online booksellers let you search WorldCat for free, but only when they don't carry the book you're looking for. For example, go to the Antiquarian Booksellers' site at abaa.org and type in an obscure author. If the Antiquarian Booksellers's own site has no book by that author, you'll immediately get a link to WorldCat, where you can freely search for that books by author or any other.

You can also search a subset of WorldCat through a pilot project being run with Google. Go to www.google.com and just add the word *worldcat* into your search. Suppose you're looking for "Deep Valley," a 1967 book about California Native American history that the Palo Alto Library doesn't carry. If you search on the words *worldcat* "*deep valley*" on Google and enter your zip code when asked, you'll find a number of local libraries that do have the book. You'll see that Mountain View is the closest public library that carries the book, but that Sunnyvale has it as well, as does Stanford. Unfortunately, the approximately 1.5 million records available through the Google pilot project represent only a fraction of WorldCat's collection, so if this method fails to find a book, that doesn't mean WorldCat doesn't know where it is.

WorldCat, like most library catalogs, gives you only the most bare bone information about the books. If you want more, a great site to visit is Amazon.com, which offers synopses, reviews, and sometimes even sample pages. You of course don't have to buy a book at Amazon in order to use its search facilities. Instead, use Amazon's catalog to find titles you're interested in, and then jump over to WorldCat to see whether those books are available from a library.

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Summer Fun at the Library

Track it down at your library! The annual children's **Summer Reading Program** runs from June 10 through August 31. Children can sign up until August 1 at Children's, College Terrace, Downtown or Mitchell Park. Those who meet their goal for books read (or listened to, if they're not yet reading) will receive a certificate and nifty prizes.

And there's something new this year. Children can recommend their favorite books to other readers by filling out a form at the library or online at the library's website: www.cityofpaloalto.org/library. Recommendations will be posted for others to see.

Wednesdays will be wacky throughout the summer, with lots of special programs for kids of all ages. Here is just a taste of what's in store. (Due to space limitations and program content, please honor the age requirements for each program.)

July 7, 3:30 p.m., Children's. *Opera Piccola presents: Into the Eye of Magic – an Asian Folktale*; a playful show that introduces Chinese opera. (ages 3 and up)

July 14, 3:30 p.m., Mitchell Park. See the beautiful and fascinating wildlife of the fields and forests around the Bay Area with *Wildlife Associates presents: Bay Area Wild* (ages 5 and up)

July 28, 3:30 p.m., Mitchell Park. Legend teller Tom McCormack presents *The California Trail Meets the Wild West* in a dynamic re-enactment of California's colorful history from the Native Americans' point of view. (ages 5 and up)

August 4, 3:30 p.m., College Terrace. Don't miss this updated zany version of the classic tale *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* presented by *Puppet Art Theater*. (all ages)

August 18, 6 p.m., Children's. Celebrate the end of summer with *The Wing String Thing*, featuring eclectic world music and hijinks by the Wing Family Band. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket to sit on – the Library will provide dessert.

Thanks to Friends of the Palo Alto Library for your generous support of the Summer Reading Program.

A great read...

for children in grades 4 and up.

The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place by E.L. Konigsburg
Margaret Rose Kane "prefers not to" participate in the rigidly structured activities of her summer camp. She continuously irritates the camp director, Mrs. Tillie Kaplan, for her non-compliance. Margaret's fellow cabin-mates are playing practical jokes on her, and, let's face it, this summer is not turning out like she had hoped when she had chosen Camp Talequa. Margaret finds an unlikely friend in Mrs. Kaplan's son, Jake, who is not who he seems to be. After Jake meets Margaret's eccentric granduncles who live at 19 Schuyler Place, no one is the same again. This is a well-told story about not conforming to the status quo and the unique perspectives offered by those who think a little differently. (Reviewed by Martha Walters.) You can find this book at Children's, College Terrace and Mitchell Park libraries.

--Paula Simpson

**"Remember, you're never too old, too wacky, too wild,
to pick up a book and read with a child."**

Dr. Seuss

Book Sale News



Do You Like Children's Books?

Did you know that almost 70 boxes of children's books are donated to the Friends each month? Many are library discards, but some are beautiful new books and some are valuable older books. We also receive videos, activity books and toys, among other things. With just two people to sort and price all this bounty, we are usually running behind by the time the sale happens. Would you like to join the team in the Children's Room and help us? There are quite a few sections that could be exciting self-contained projects for volunteers who are seeking just a few hours a month.

For example, each of these areas only would require approximately four hours per month, and could be done on your schedule: (1) Price and shelve videos; (2) sort and price activity/coloring/work books; (3) price board books and baby books; (4) sort and price children's foreign language and religion; and (5) re-price and maintain the children's collectible books, which have been internet-priced by other volunteers.

(Continued on page 4)

(Children's Books continued from page 3)

If any of these areas are of interest to you, please contact Book Sale Manager Marty Paddock at 213-8755 Children's Book Room Coordinator Lucy LaPier at 462-1806 or elriver2@aol.com. Thanks!

--Lucy LaPier



Volunteers, We Couldn't Do It Without You!

A heartfelt thanks to the following volunteers who helped sort, price, clean shelves, arrange books, pick up donations, lug boxes, push book carts, make signs, handle scheduling, count money . . . and a lot more, as of April 2004:

Abi Rice, Althea Andersen, Andy Niemic, Ann Boeckling, Anne Huynh, Anne Pollak, Barbara Silberling, Barbara Sloan, Ben Askarinam, Betsy Allyn, Betty Mann, Betty Moore, Bob Schwar, Bob Otnes, Bonita Chandler, Brenda Miller, Carl Finfrock, Carolyn Long, Carolyn Spitz, Dan Li, Dane Fouts, David Rearic, Ed Rice, Ed Walker, Edwin El-Kareh, Edwina McGannon, Elena Nazarova, Ellen Wyman, Ellie Director, Elliot Krigel, Emmy Lou Miller, Enid Pearson, Frank McConnell, Frenchie Perry, Georgia Schwaar, Geraldine Goh, Gerry Masteller, Helen Smith, Hershel Smith, Irmgard Schonfeld, Jack Gill, Janet Leigh, Jason Lin, Jeff Levinsky, Jennifer Lim, Jenise Fuess, Ill Fu, Joe Shakes, John Burt, Jonathan Gaffney, Joshua Koran, Judith Wangelin, Karen Bobonich, Lasana Taylor, Letty Bird, Lynn Conell-Price, Lynn Hum, Liz Davis, Lucy LaPier, Maggie Anderson, Margaret Worland, Marian Knox, Marion MacGillivray, Marcia Goodman, Marilyn Simbeck, Marty Paddock, Mary Smith, Mary Anne Simpson, May Turner, Megan Fung, Micki Zatz, Miriam Landesman, Nancy Olson, Nick Tenchieh, Norma Burchard, Priscilla Jang, Rachel Levy, Ray Jadwin, Rene Jurgens, Rose Giamalis, Sarah Jang, Shirley Finfrock, Sophia Ristich, Suzanne Little, Tinker Spar, Tisa Walker, Tom Wyman, Verna Graham, Verne Rice, Winnie McGannon, Yuan-Ling Tseng.

(Portal continued from page 2)

WorldCat is very popular. OCLC reports that a new item is added to their collection every twelve seconds and a search occurs every second. One in four of those searches leads to an interlibrary loan, for a total of 9.3 million annually. The catalog contains items in more than 400 languages; the top seven in order are English, German, French, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, and Russian. Not all are in book or magazine form either: Dartmouth College supplied WorldCat record 3244509, which is a terra cotta cone with a Babylonian inscription written over four thousand years ago.

How big is WorldCat? As of a year ago, the catalog contained information on about 49 million unique books, magazines, music scores, recordings, and other library items. When you include duplicates held by the many participating libraries, the actual number of indexed items in WorldCat is close to a billion. That's approximately 3,400 times the size of what's in our own library. Fortunately, many of these can be delivered from around the planet to you at your nearest Palo Alto branch library, or as Janet says, at your "portal to the world."

--Jeff Levinsky

"A book is like a garden carried in the pocket."

--Chinese proverb

Donors to the Children's Library Fund as of April 23, 2004

The following people and organizations donated to the Children's Library Fund, established in 2003 to enlarge the building by over 50% in tandem with the City's rehabilitation of the library. This fund was co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Library Foundation, the Friends of the Palo Alto Library, the Library Advisory Commission and the City of Palo Alto Library Staff.

The donor list includes the names of those who made contributions to the Friends of the Palo Alto Library for improvements to the Children's Library before the Children's Library Fund was established as well as those who provided start-up funds essential for creating the Palo Alto Library Foundation.

We express our sincere gratitude to all donors, who generously stepped forward to contribute over \$1 million in less than a year. Thank you! You were all terrific.

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