



FOREWORD

Issue No. 80

Fall 2009

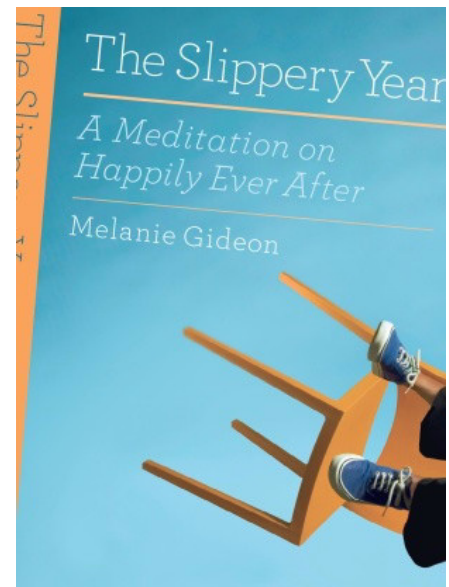
Friends of the Palo Alto Library & Books Inc. Proudly Present **Author Melanie Gideon**



**Sunday, October 18, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.
in the Ballroom at Lucie Stern Community Center
1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto**

Judging by advance information about the author and her recently published memoir, *The Slippery Year*, we're in for a delightful afternoon. Gideon, who has authored two popular young adult novels, has written what one reviewer calls, "a poignant, hilarious, exuberant meditation." She'll talk about her life and the people whose stories she details in her memoir, and will read from the book itself.

The Slippery Year chronicles a year in which Gideon confronts both the fantasies of her receding youth and the realities of mid-life with a husband, a child, and a dog (one of whom runs away). She reflects on the exigencies of domesticity—the need for a household catastrophe plan, the fainting spell occasioned by the departure of her nine-year-old son for camp, the mattress wars, and the carpool line. With tenderness, unsparing honesty, and uproarious wit, Gideon brings us back again and again to the sweetness of ordinary pleasures and to life's most enduring satisfactions. She captures perfectly that moment right before everything changes and the things we have loved forever begin to fall away for the first time. *The Slippery Year* is the story of a woman's quest to reignite passion, beauty, and mystery and discover if "happily ever after" is a possibility after all.



Gideon was born and raised in Rhode Island and now lives in the Bay Area with her husband and son. She graduated from Emerson College with a degree in journalism. She has been a waitress (a very clumsy waitress). She has worked in advertising. She was a buyer for a company that made one of the first parallel processing supercomputers. Her favorite job was working in an herbal apothecary where she learned to appreciate kale. When she's not worrying about earthquakes, she is working too hard at housebreaking her puppy.

Annual Meeting—2009

At the Sunday October 18th gathering at Lucie Stern, FOPAL membership will conduct a 5-minute meeting to vote on Board of Directors nominees and officers and changes to the By-Laws.



Current FOPAL Directors standing for another 2-year term (to expire 12/31/11):

Betsy Allyn, Arline Dehlinger, Dick Grote, Martha Schmidt, Barbara Silberling, and Tom Wyman.

Proposed New Board Members:

Tisa Abshire Walker and Eugene O'Sullivan.

Board Members Departing or on Hiatus:

Carolyn Spitz has decided not to stand for another term. Margarita Quihuis is on hiatus.

FOPAL Officers

The Nominating Committee proposes the following FOPAL Officers for election:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| • President | Jim Schmidt |
| • Vice President | Tom Wyman |
| • Treasurer | Enid Pearson |
| • Assistant Treasurer | Dick Grote |
| • Secretary | Martha Schmidt |

NOTE: The FOPAL By-Laws provide that other candidates may be nominated from the floor.

Proposed Changes to the By-Laws

Pursuant to Article IX of the By-Laws which states "the By-Laws may be amended or repealed or new By-Laws adopted by affirmative vote of two thirds of the members present at an Annual or Special meeting provided the proposed changes have been made available in writing to the membership at least fifteen days prior to the meeting." The Board of Directors recommends that the following amendments be approved (new Language **in boldface**):

1. Article IV Section 1, Delete "All" at the beginning; sentence to read "**General and Special meetings shall be open to the public.**"
2. Article IV, Add new Section V "**A quorum at a General or Special Meeting shall be the number of members present.**"
3. Article V, Add new "**Section 6 a) If a Director fails to attend any three Board and/or General meetings within a twelve month period his or her resignation from the board is deemed to have been tendered. Said resignation may be accepted or rejected at the discretion of the President. b) Any Officer or Director may be removed from the Board with or without cause by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by the Board at a meeting at which a quorum of the Board is present.**"
4. Article VI Section 5 a), Add: "**If the Office of the Vice President is also vacant, then the Board of Directors shall elect a new President.**"
5. Article VIII, Change the parliamentary authority clause to read, "**The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the corporation in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these by-laws and any special rules of order the corporation may adopt.**"

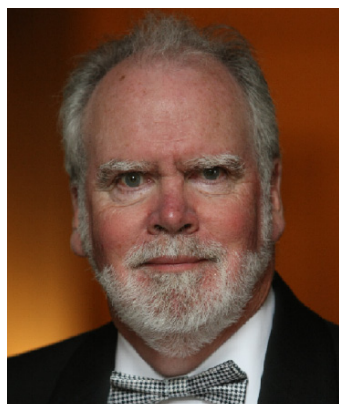
Report From the Treasurer—Enid Pearson

In our last fiscal year, July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, FOPAL had gross sales of \$253,087. Our total income, which includes memberships, contributions, and interest earned on our accounts was \$303,014. Our net income (after expenses) was \$224,306.

Our total assets at year-end were \$850,205, liabilities \$191,467. Net Assets are as follows: Endowment Fund \$302,891, Fund for the Future \$59,446, and uncommitted General Fund \$296,400.

In the fiscal year 2008-2009, we awarded the Palo Alto Libraries a total of \$226,124 of which the city spent \$214,153. The grants to the city included \$67,000 for Collection Matching Funds. FOPAL made a two-year agreement with the city to give matching funds. The City gave \$100,000 and FOPAL gave \$67,000. We also gave \$54,200 to start the Link+ program and we have guaranteed an additional \$57,000 for the year 2009-2010.

In the past five years, FOPAL has given the City Libraries over \$1 million. Great job, volunteers!



Jim Schmidt Honored

Jim Schmidt, FOPAL Board member and nominee for FOPAL President in 2010, received the Beta Phi Mu award from the American Library Association at its Annual Conference in Chicago in July. The award citation concludes “For his commitment to scholarship, the university, the library world, and the American Library Association as well as for advancing knowledge and promoting the free exchange of ideas.”

Alice Gross, Our Sale-Day Scheduler, Is Retiring

Alice Gross deserves a great deal of credit for the last five years that she has devoted to making sure FOPAL volunteers were notified and ready to go for each of our monthly book sales. Her diligence assured that we would always have a full compliment of cashiers and sale-day workers who helped maintain a semblance of “law and order” and organization during our well-attended sales. Before Alice took over, pre-sale telephoning was handled by Rene Jurgens. Although there were fewer calls to make, during her tenure, Rene devised the system. Since she handed off the task to Alice, Rene has become a valued member of the team in the Children’s Book Room.



Alice’s work as a sale-day scheduler is one of those behind-the-scene activities that are so essential in conducting a smoothly running book sale. It takes a bunch of telephone calls to round up 35 cashiers and 20 book room monitors each month. By this writer’s reckoning, Alice must have made some 4,500 calls to book sale volunteers, and that’s a lot of telephoning. All of us thank you, Alice, for your dependability and follow-through month after month. And those of us you called will miss your friendly, cheerful monthly reminders.

The Bargain Room

The FOPAL Bargain Room is an essential part of the book-selling process at Cubberley. On sale weekends, K-7 is the last stand for many wonderful books—some that haven't sold after three months on shelves in Marty's (Main) Book Room and some that arrive at the Sorting Room as duplicates of books already priced and on the shelves. (We can have too many copies of a good thing.) When the sale weekend ends on Sunday, the books that remain in the Bargain Room must be dispersed, distributed to new locations. The whole process of sorting, pricing, and shelving books for sale relies on the Bargain Room to serve as a kind of pressure-relief valve. We never have enough space for all the wonderful books we receive in donations, and the Bargain Room absorbs the extras.

Many people—primarily Jim Dean and Bill Steele —work hard receiving, organizing, and shelving books for sale in the Bargain Room. There are also people who find new homes for Bargain Room books *after* the sale has ended....

Norma Burchard—Find a Need and Fill It

It's 4:00 p.m. Sunday in Room K-7, the Bargain Room: Closing bell for the monthly sale. Up until a few minutes ago, the room was pretty busy, but shoppers got a warning five minutes earlier to grab their last great finds. A few customers would love to linger; many have left already with their treasures, and many more have taken advantage of our invitation to "Fill a bag full of books, tapes, and games for \$5.00."



The business day isn't over quite yet. Norma Burchard, who has been cashiering during the afternoon, greets and signs in yet another group of browsers. These represent local (and not so local) non-profit organizations responding to our offer of **free** books they can distribute to their clients.

Norma continues: "As I look at the records of post-sale distributions, I find that Paul Bundy is our all-time champion when it comes to selecting books for non-profits. Most months he takes 20 or more boxes and sacks, mostly for Bridges to Asia, but also for various sites in Africa and South America. Other non-profit customers select books to benefit local public and private schools, and to distribute to the local jails. The University of Krakow in Poland, a library in the Philippines supported by Neighbors Abroad, the California Health Institute, Native American Libraries, the Urban Ministry Food Closet, and various senior organizations have also

helped us to whittle down Bargain Room inventories in preparation for the next avalanche of Bargain Books which start arriving two days after the Friends sale.

"We're usually able to move the majority of books but there are always some fine ones left. The limiting factor in finding homes for them is reaching more people who will come to the Bargain Room from 4:00 to 6:00 after the sale on Sunday to select books and deliver them to an appropriate non-profit." If this sounds like something you might be interested in doing, please give us a call at 650-213-8755.

In addition to assisting the non-profits with their Sunday evening post-sale book selections, Norma used to handpick and deliver Bargain Room books for the Plumas County Library system. Every three months or so, she'd fill her VW camper and drop off the books at many of the libraries between here and her cabin outside of Taylorsville. She explains, "I would tuck my grandsons into the back seat, partially bury them in sacks of books, and away we would go.

“Every fourth trip we’d stop in Sierra City to replenish their book-sale shelves—on the porch of the one-room library. Open just a few hours each week, the library is staffed entirely by volunteers. Book sales were on the honor system: people would put their money into a box on the porch.



“From there we would drop off books at Quincy, Greenville, and occasionally all the way to Chester. When I started this route, librarians were a little dubious about the whole deal, no doubt thinking that they had a sufficient supply of National Geographics and elderly encyclopedias. It didn’t take long for them to realize that the quality of books we couldn’t sell for 25¢ & 50¢ was better than that of many they had on their shelves. Once they recognized the mini-goldmines we were bringing them, we were greeted with open arms and willing hands to unload boxes of books.” Norma covered this route for several

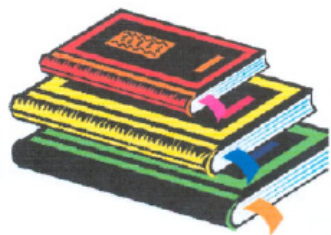
years until she sold the camper and started driving a Prius. Her new wheels only accommodate grandsons and a few groceries, so she has regretfully had to stop the book deliveries.

The Final Bargain Room Pickup—Nothing Is Wasted

On Tuesday after a sale weekend, the shelves in the Bargain Room are emptied, and the resulting boxes of books are packed on a truck for a trip to a book dealer in San Jose. The person who makes all this happen is Jessie, a local entrepreneur. Jessie rents a truck, hires the help he needs, and spends most of a day clearing the Bargain Room so we can begin another cycle.



Library News—Summer/Fall 2009—Always Something New



College Terrace Library closed this summer for a major, long-awaited renovation, which allowed us to expand hours at Mitchell Park and Downtown Libraries. Main and Mitchell Park are now open 10-9 Monday-Wednesday, 12-9 Thursday, 10-6 Friday and Saturday, and 1-5 on Sunday. Downtown is open 10-6 Tuesday and Wednesday, 12-7 Thursday, and 10-6 Friday and Saturday. Children’s Library hours remain unchanged: Monday-Wednesday 10-6, Thursday 12-6, Friday and Saturday 10-5, and Sunday 1-5.

It’s Fall, and many residents are heading back to school. Main Reference Librarians invite students and parents to attend the next programs in the “Getting Into College” series, to be held at Main Library on October 17 and November 7. Registration is required. For more information, call 650-329-2436. Many thanks to the Friends for once again generously supporting this popular series.

Along the same lines, the Library recently acquired a new selection of online resources from Ebsco, the same people that brought you Novelist and Ebsco Host Car Repair Manuals online! Visit the Library web page and click Resources Online to try these great new databases.

~Cornelia van Aken, Assistant Director, Palo Alto City Library

Has Anybody Seen Woofie?



In December, Woofie becomes Santa Claus.

One of the stranger traditions at FOPAL is the dressing up of the stuffed animal mascot named *Le Woofier*. FOPAL sells books once a month, and Woofie is dressed to match a major holiday in the month.

It started when somebody donated Woofie to FOPAL, and we weren't sure what to do with him. Then volunteers started propping him up in various sections, leaving him hunched over a keyboard, or letting him dangle from the ceiling.

And then it got out of hand. None of this makes any sense, but traditions rarely do.

~Dean Ujihara

(Thanks for letting us borrow from your blog.)

February brings Valentine's Day, and it looks as if Woofie has a case of puppy love.



For October & Halloween, Woofie dons a clown costume. Trick or treat?

Meanwhile, Here's Trixie!



The constant companion of book room manager, Jerry Stone, Trixie (a Whippet) is a quiet, smiling presence.

If you see Trixie passing by, you know Jerry's in the building.



This Month's Grand Prize for Esoterica

Donations last month included the book, *Strange But All Ours*, documenting a unique work of art that was exhibited in Palo Alto City Hall in July 2005.

Done by Korean artist Kang Hong Seok, the work comprised a series of large square corrugated cardboard tiles, each covered with the yellow pages of a Korean telephone directory. In the center of each panel was affixed a striated brown silkworm pupa.

The panels covered much of the wall surface of the City Hall foyer and the Council Chamber for a month. The Palo Alto installation, Kang's first outside Korea, represents the culmination of the artist's studies in this form. Three earlier variations are pictured in full color in this slim volume, including an installation on the walls of a women's toilet in a Korean museum.

The telephone pages, the artist explains, signify the modern Korea with its digital telecommunications industries, while the pupa represents the old traditional Korea and its silk industry.



His mother worked in a silk factory, and after the cocoons were boiled and the silk unwound, the remaining pupa was a tasty nutritious snack that he relished as a child. Sold by street vendors by the cupful, it is still a favorite of his.

The back cover of the book is an actual piece of one of the corrugated cardboard panels, complete with pupa.

The book was published in a limited edition of 1000, and a lone example is offered on the Internet for \$55.00. A unique, imaginative item, this book will be in the glass case for the November 2009 sale!

~Bob Schwaar

About the Downtown Library Brouhaha

Readers of this publication must understandably wonder what is happening involving the Downtown Library. The September 18 editorial in the Palo Alto Weekly headlined, "A late-night blunder on Downtown Library" urged that "the FOPAL people back off from their rigid position and lobbying and participate in the collaborative processes."

To set the record straight, this effort to improve the Downtown Library was not undertaken by Friends of the Palo Alto Library as an organization but by individuals who want to see the library collections and services substantially increased. They were seeking to enlarge the library collection from a meager 17,500 items to nearer 30 to 35,000 items. Library management had agreed to increase the collection to 17,500 items from the originally announced 12,500 level but that was still well short of the some 23,000 items housed in the Downtown Library several years ago. Originally, the library also had announced that there would be no increase in the number of computers or seating.

Indeed, Downtown Library advocates have "participated in the collaborative process" as the Weekly editorial urged. This included talking to the Library Advisory Commission, where they got little satisfaction. The next natural step for them was to take their case to council members. Interestingly, the Weekly is highly critical of the library advocates "lobbying" council members but has never leveled the same criticism at developers and promoters who seek the ear of council members after striking out in the "collaborative process."

It is not at all clear why the paper became so exercised over this effort to improve library collections and services at the Downtown Library and went out of its way to be critical of FOPAL. Instead, we should all be pleased that the city council approved 95% of the \$76-million library project with no reservations whatsoever. Those who seek assurances that the public gets a clearly better Downtown Library with improved collections and services after spending \$4.1 million of public funds should be commended for their efforts.

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Web Page: www.friendspaloaltolib.org

Email: info@friendspaloaltolib.org

Book Sales: Second Weekend Every Month

Cubberley Community Center
4000 Middlefield Road

Saturday

Main Room: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(Free tickets to reserve place in line available at 8 am)

Children's Room (K6) & Bargain Room (K7): 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday—New Hours

All rooms: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For details, see www.friendspaloaltolib.org

Book Discussion Group: Second Thursday

Lucie Stern Community Center Community Room
1305 Middlefield Road 7:30 to 9 p.m.

For information, see

www.fopalbookgroup.homestead.com

Great Books: Second Wednesday

Oak Creek Apartments Club House
1600 Sand Hill Road, Palo Alto. 7:30 to 9 p.m.

For information, call Elsie Taboroff at 493-8629

Library Commission: Fourth Thursday

Council Conference Room, 250 Hamilton Ave. 7 p.m.

To confirm date/time, see

www.city.palo-alto.ca.us/clerk/schedule.html

Friends of the Palo Alto Library Membership Form

We are a public-benefit 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your membership is tax deductible.

Join/renew	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>2 Years</u>
<u>Individual</u>	\$15	\$27
<u>Family</u>	\$25	\$45
<u>Student</u>	\$10	\$18
<u>Senior</u>	\$10	\$18
<u>Supporter</u>	\$50	\$90
<u>Sponsor</u>	\$100	
<u>Patron</u>	\$250	
<u>Lifetime</u>	\$500	

Name (Please Print)

Address

City / State / Zip

Phone

Email

Make checks payable to Friends of the Palo Alto Library

Return form to: **Friends of the Palo Alto Library**

P.O. Box 41 Palo Alto, CA 94302

Friends of the Palo Alto Library (FOPAL) Board of Directors: Betsy Allyn—President; Martha Schmidt—Vice President; Margarita Quihuis—Secretary; Enid Pearson—Treasurer; Tom Clark, Arline Dehlinger, Gretchen Emmons, Dick Grote, Gerry Masteller, Jim Schmidt, Barbara Silberling, Carolyn Spitz, Steven Staiger, Ellen and Tom Wyman, Scottie Zimmerman. Library Director and Representative to the Board—Diane Jennings. Foreword Editor—Scottie Zimmerman. Webmaster—Frank McConnell. Membership—Martha Schmidt