



Foreword

The Newsletter of Friends of the Palo Alto Library

www.fopal.org

Fall 2026

President's Message



Since the Spring issue of the Foreword, a lot has happened for the Cubberley Community Center, our Palo Alto home since 2002. Co-owned by the City and the Palo Alto School District (PAUSD), an ambiguous future and money have kept it in an off-and-on stalemate for years, despite efforts. In recent months, some
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MEMBERS' ANNUAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Time: 10:30 am

Place: Matadero Room, Mitchell Park Community Center

Agenda: Minutes from 2025 Annual Meeting, Financial report, Election of Board members and Officers, other business from the members.

FOPAL BOARD ELECTION

Proposed for Re-election to the Board for a Two-Year Term

Steve Bellamy, Marcie Brown, George Chaltas, Tina Kass, Suzanne Little, Gerry Masteller, and Henry Yu

Proposed for Officers for a One-Year Term

President: Henry Yu (third term); Vice President: Suzanne Little (first term); Secretary: Kristen St John (first term); Treasurer: John Wang (no term limit); Assistant Treasurer: Steve Bellamy (third term)

Proposed New Board Members (2-year term)

Kristen St John (first term), Diane Moore (first term)

Continuing Board Members

Karen DalColletto, Jenny Munro, John Wang

Presenting the two FOPAL

Board nominees

KRISTEN ST. JOHN, NOMINEE FOR SECRETARY



I've been a FOPAL volunteer since the fall of 2024. I've worked at sales, been a donation monitor, a high-value book researcher, and create fliers to publicize our monthly sales. I also distribute the fliers to several branches each month. It's amazing to see how many people use and enjoy the libraries every day - no matter when I go, the library branches are always buzzing. It's really gratifying to know volunteering with FOPAL supports this key resource for our community.

I've lived in Palo Alto since 2018 and am a Bay Area native. I spent many years working in large university libraries (most recently Stanford). Now I work as a freelance book indexer and sometimes a book designer. I enjoy reading, listening to audiobooks while gardening and walking my dog, and love traveling with books loaded up on my Kindle. I'm a book person and library user in every format.

DIANE MOORE, NOMINEE FOR BOARD



Originally from southern Illinois, I initially came to California for graduate studies at Stanford and then spent my career at the U. S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park (now at Moffett Field). I remain an active emerita scientist there as part of the Earthquake Hazards Team.

(Continued on page 2)

President *(Continued from page 1)*

traction has set the wheels in motion in a positive direction for the community and Cubberley tenants (and future tenants).

The latest foot forward has been Measure J, which was approved at a June 8th City Council meeting to be placed on the November 3, 2026 General Election ballot in Palo Alto. It consists of a general 1/2 cent sales tax increase and, crafted as such, enables its passing with a simple majority vote, but the City has passed a resolution that the proceeds will be used to purchase the rest of the 8-acre land that Cubberley resides partially on from PAUSD and begin long-needed improvements and repairs.

FOPAL created a position statement pledging long term commitment to remaining at Cubberley, and after the City passed its resolution and Measure J became a reality on the ballot, endorsed Measure J.

FOPAL is partnering with the non-profit Yes On J Palo Alto, a grassroots campaign to help pass Measure J. They can be found at <https://www.yesonjpaloalto.com/> and on social media outlets. Please help us pass J by spreading the word and voting Yes on J.

Special Thanks to longtime volunteer Virginia Perry, who created our position statement and helped us with the presentation of our position at the City Council meeting in June.

We had a highly successful summer, with a spectacular comic book sale conceived and orchestrated by Sven-Erik Geddes. In the fall, our \$1 per item pop-up at our September sale brought bargain hunters out in droves. We sold all types of things, including a few IBM Selectric typewriters. Congratulations to Sven and our volunteers who participated in these special sales.



Nominees *(Continued from page 1)*

My interest in volunteering at FOPAL came about when I cleaned out a book-loving friend's apartment in late 2022. I delivered 7 carloads of books to FOPAL and was very impressed by the work of the donation monitors, especially given the continuing pandemic-related restrictions back then (they were set up outside to collect books in December). Inspired by them, I became a donation monitor myself in spring 2023, and I continue to do that for 1-2 days per week. Now I also deliver books once a week to the sale room at Mitchell Park Library. I've been a library patron all my life, and volunteering with FOPAL is a way to give back to the libraries that have been so important to me.

I'm an avid reader of mysteries and a big fan of old movies, being one of the regulars at the Stanford Theatre. Any spare time is spent gardening.

FOPAL Annual Appeal

Dear Supporters of Friends of the Palo Alto Library,

In order to ensure the library's ongoing ability to enhance its lending collection and to offer all the wonderful programs and events that enrich our community, FOPAL's annual grants to the library are essential, and even more so in this time of fiscal uncertainty.

Please help us maintain the successful partnership between the local community and the library with a tax-deductible gift.

If your employer has a matching gift program, please know that as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, we are generally eligible for such matching gifts.

Interested in donating stocks? Email membership@fopal.org

Donating online: Make a one-time or recurring donation (annual, monthly, quarterly) and help support Palo Alto's outstanding library system! **See page 8 for QR code to make a CASH donation.**

Donating by mail, send a check payable to:

Friends of the Palo Alto Library

PO Box 41

Palo Alto CA 94302-0041

When donating, please provide the name of the person being honored or remembered, along with the name and address of the honoree or family member who should receive the tribute notification.

Please include your name and address so that we can mail you a receipt.

FOPAL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our Federal Tax ID No. is 94-6138777.

We thank you for your support!

My Journey from Reader to FOPAL Volunteer



A photo collage of Gabi working with the Free Library at FOPAL with Sven.

Gabi Dedek is one of our hardest working volunteers. She comes in 4-5 days a week. On Tuesday afternoons you can see her in the Children's Room. On other days you can see her filling the Little Freaky Library shelves as

well as shelving DVDs/Tapes, Self Help and Psych in the Bargain Room. She also helps with other jobs when needed. In addition to all that, Gabi is an amazing artist and a very creative thinker. One of her best ideas that I whole



Gabi Dedek poses for a portrait while holding art she created after the AbilityPath Authors Luncheon in Palo Alto in October. She also did the painting directly above her head. (Nhat V. Meyer/Bay Area News Group) - San Jose Mercury News.

heartily endorse is her idea to help boost sales at our monthly book bazaar. The idea is for all of the volunteers to dress like COWBOYS. I plan on dressing like Jeff Goldblum from The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th

Dimension (getting wooly sheepskin chaps is the hard part). So saddle up and write in to The Foreword to show your support for Gabi's cowboy sale!

Sven-Erik Geddes,
Manager of Volunteer Engagement

My name is Gabi Dedek. I have lived in Palo Alto my whole life. I have always loved books. Even when I was a child, my parents read to me. That's where it all began.

Libraries have always been a part of my life. I worked at the Children's Library and the Mitchell Park Library, way before COVID hit, and I then I found out about the Friends of the Library at Cubberley! I've now been with FOPAL for a year and am still going strong. I have a very good boss who is kind and gentle and always has a smile. From him, I've learned to love and have a passion for books.

I carry that love with me every day. I'm known as a big reader. I always have a book in my hand. I started to read on my own when I began kindergarten, and I kept reading through high school. Even in school, I always liked my homework, and I still read even now. When I read, my mind wanders into the story. That's when dreams come alive, which makes me want to read even more.

Sometimes I get a book from an LFL (Little Free Library), or I buy books from the book sales. Some of my favorite books are the Nancy Drew mysteries, and I also like Laura Ingalls Wilder books. I own many books myself, and I also often visit the Mitchell Park Library, where I used to work, and the Children's Library.

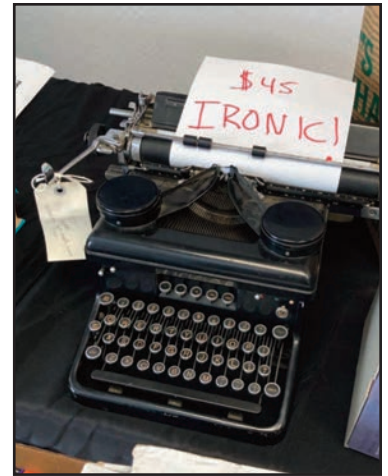
I love art and have been doing abstract painting freehand since I started high school. These paintings hang on my apartment walls. They have also been exhibited around town. I hope to share some of it in FOPAL's bookmarks.

I've always wanted to be a librarian myself. Working with books at FOPAL makes me feel like I'm still with the library. I learned to shelve books and movies, put together boxes, and break down boxes to make new ones. One of my favorite parts is working the sales at the book sale, which also helps me a lot with counting. Working at the Friends of the Library and the two libraries makes me feel wonderful and proud. I've made a lot of new and old friends through FOPAL, and being with them has made me even stronger, especially in the Children's Room where everyone is friendly. We are all friends! No wonder they're called Friends of the Library.

The Friends of the Library is a dream come true.

Gabi Dedek,
FOPAL Volunteer

FOPAL Shines at VCF West Fest



FOPAL Shines at VCF

The Vintage Computer Federation (VCF) held its West Fest on August 1st and 2nd at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, and FOPAL had a lot to offer in our Exhibit 52. Forty-two boxes of books and software, to be exact. VCF gave us prime real estate in the show. We sold \$3200 worth of vintage items.

FOPAL was a star attraction, with a constant stream of people stopping by and getting a kick out of the 1930–current collection of books. People reminisced about textbooks they had long forgotten, and somebody even walked away with a typewriter, adding a wonderfully ironic touch to a computer show. There was also a vintage Osborne Portable Computer, which had only just been donated to FOPAL a few days before, and it was spotted in the Main Room while fetching spare boxes and brought to the show. It sold for \$100 in an hour! We tapped into nostalgia and gave people plenty of laughs and smiles, with every age group finding something that evoked a memory.

On a serious note, many books were clearly useful to the people who bought them, and they were grateful to find them at such affordable prices.



Spirited conversation took place as old computer language books sparked discussion. Just as the entire fair was about vintage computers, the books appealed to such hobbyists.

On the entertainment side, we also sold a couple of record albums that were computer-related.

- Amy Rosenberg, David Cortesi,
Henry Yu



Comic Book Sale

Noitomorp Department



Since the dawn of time, humankind has been reading comics. From the flickering torchlight against the walls of the caves of Lascaux to the first hieroglyphics in predynastic Egypt over 5000 years ago, comics have been the first tool of



transcribed communication. Would our friend the caveman from 25,000 B.C.E., let's call him Ug, and his pair-bonding partner Florence have laughed at a comic of Lucy pulling the football away from Charlie Brown right before he was about to kick it? If you take the scientific point of view, as I do, the answer has to be yes. The joke is unsophisticated and not particularly funny. These cavemen (and cave ladies too, of course) were incredibly dumb. Not a single one of them ever knew how to even use a toaster! Imagine that!!!

So what am I trying to say here? Am I just eating up words to reach my minimum 600, like a high school freshman writing his essay, of which he (or she, ladies can be freshmen

too) knows nothing of the subject at hand? Should I just ask the Google robot to write something for me? Does it matter? Is anyone still reading this? The answer to all of these questions, in reverse, is: yes (duh, at least you are), no, maybe, that's for me to know and you to find out, and we'll get to that shortly.

Of course, what we are talking about is our first comic book sale in the entire history of FOPAL. This sale was a huge success, but it happened two months ago, and the next sale probably won't happen until next summer. So this article is sort of the opposite of promotion, but none of the antonyms of promotion seem to be a good descriptor. So let's try a new one. Antimotion? Noitomorp? You all know that I'm not the kind of person that pulls things out of left field just for the sake of not making a point, so we will go with Noitomorp. I am noitomorphing our first-ever comic book sale for posterity. I have only one modest hope for this newsletter: that a copy ends up in a time capsule and is opened ten million years from now by a group of glamorous Venusians. Having read it, they will activate their time-teleporter, find me, and ask, "Earthman, tell us: what is this thing you call LOVE?" And, frankly, who am I to disappoint them?

And that's why I'm proud to be an American!

Sven-Erik Geddes, B.A., V.I.P., Squaxx dek Thargo



New Volunteers Spring & Summer 2026

Abigail Palomino Cunha	Faith Lui	Lorelei Giesing	Ryan Sim
Ada Samachisa	Fernando Gama	Lucas Kao	Sai MA
Aiden Rhee	Gabriela Caraccia	Lucianna Peralta	Satyashree Srikanth
Alexander Leong	Gavin Yeung	Luke Wang	Scarlett Zhang
Ally Cherevko	Genevieve Dixon	Malia Marasco	Serena Bramble
Alya Madhani	Grace Meyer	Manalee Chowdhury	Seyon Ahn
Andrew Wang	Haiyun Zhang	Mary Remar	Shawn Sun
Ania Lee	Hannah Cho	Matthew Fu	Shoma Hamahira
Anjali Gottipati	Hannah Yee	Max Sun	Sibel Yardimci
Anna Butler	Hawk Ulfarsson	Maya Venkatraman	Skyla Yang
Anna McGregor	Helen Kim	McKenzie Kanna	Sloane Wu Chin
Anna Seletskaia	Holly Moore	Meera Aparajit	Stephanie Anderson
Arihao Wang	Hui-Min Lu	Meera Rajagopalan	Stephanie Joong
Arvind Madhav	Ibrahim Khan	Megan Beltran	Supriya Rao
Avni Sharma	Isabella Cho	Nandini Arora	Tanav Parth
Ayla Inan	Isabella Cruz	Nathan Ranft	Tessa Chang
Ben Yu	Isha Sinha	Naya Singhania	Ujaani Bhattacharya
Ben Yu	Ishaan Juyal	Nicole Guzman	Vaani Saxena
Braedon Hsu-Hoffman	Jaehyun Yu	Nived Piduri	Valentina Valencia
Brandon Seow	Jane Edison	Nyla Wang	Vladyslava Trofymova
Caitlyn Pao	Jason Yeh	Olivia Ables	Willy Piryazev
Candace Tucker	Jasper Thrun	Om Hari	Wyatt Edson
Carole Langston	Jayden Tang	Phoenix Gao	Yanqing Guan
Chloe Mourrain	Jennifer Dai	Qingfeng LI	Yoonseo Lee
Christine Jiang	Jiyoung Olcott	Randy Zhong	Yuuki Hosokawa
Clarissa Bittes	Joya Whitford	Rebecca Pei	Zhendi Cao
Conor Mooney	Julianna Stonich	Rrishi Anand	Ziqing Mao
Dane Wallinga	Justin Chang	Ruth Silver Rabin	Zoe Winston
David Angelo	Kathleen Smith	Ryan Choi	
David Clark	Katie Chi		
Davis Massey	Kayla Barile		
Dawei Kuo	Khaleda Dastagir		
Deniz Aba	Kimberly LI		
Donald Woodson	Kimberly Zhu		
Donna Dagenais	Krish Khanna		
Dorian Luo	Krishiv Piduri		
Elizabeth Escalada	Kristen Lee		
Ellen Wang	Kyana Sanders		
Ellie Yang	Laird Olsen		
Ellison Lik	Liann Sumner		
Emma Hsiung	Linda Lee		
Eudora Ding	Linus Carlsson		
Evelyn Goldin	Lisa Davis		



FOPAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Won't you consider contributing a few hours a week to help keep our Palo Alto libraries up to date and thriving? FOPAL's monthly sales of donated books and media raise much-needed funds to purchase books and technology, and to support numerous special programs. The sales happen through the efforts of many individuals just like you.

CHOOSE A JOB TO SUIT YOUR TIME, TALENTS, AND INTERESTS

High Value online e-business team - volunteers needed

Learn how to research, describe, price, and prepare our most significant high-value books on eBay and for Amazon through our partner, The Book Forest. Books can range from antiquarian to modern, from art to technology, and from media such as CDs and DVDs to games and software. You can work on all these materials at FOPAL or at your home; your hours are up to you. We will provide detailed training and mentoring. We need volunteers now to join our successful, supportive, high-value team. For additional information, contact Nancy Cohen at Nancy.cohen94306@gmail.com.

Help FOPAL with its technology needs

FOPAL needs volunteers to take on regular or one-time tasks such as updating the website, maintaining email lists, evaluating new software, inventorying equipment, creating Google forms, and occasional troubleshooting. Many of these tasks can be done remotely.

Donation Monitor

Enjoy a first look at some wonderful books as you greet donors, help them with their bags and boxes, and thank them for their donation. Monday through Saturday from 3-5 pm;

you will meet other friendly volunteers as you help with this essential task.

Main Room Section Managers needed

Take charge of an available section that interests you, pricing and shelving books on your own schedule.

Book Sale volunteers

FOPAL book sales are held on the second weekend of every month. We always need cashiers, door monitors, floor supervisors, and set-up/breakdown volunteers before and after each sale. Meet fellow bookaholics and experience the thrill of the marketplace!

Bargain Room Section Managers needed

By volunteering two hours a week, H-2 volunteers can take ownership of a specific section or two. Flexible schedule and no pricing needed.

Children's Room Tuesday Team

Help sort and price children's books each Tuesday afternoon. You will meet other volunteers who love books for kids and teens.

Drive a Golf Cart!

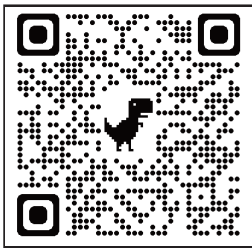
(Picking up hitchhikers is prohibited.)

To volunteer for any of the above opportunities, send an email to volunteerdir@fopal.org.





As we approach year end,
please consider a cash donation
to FOPAL via the QR code
above)! For more donation
information, see page 2.



To join or renew your
membership, go to fopal.org/join
or scan the QR code above.

Friends of the Palo Alto Library Membership Form

Friends of the Palo Alto Library is a tax-exempt organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your donation is tax deductible.

Join / Renew	1 Year	2 Years	
_____ Senior	\$12	\$22	_____ Name
_____ Student	\$10	\$18	_____ Address
_____ Individual	\$20	\$35	_____ City / State / Zip
_____ Family	\$30	\$50	_____ Email
_____ Sponsor	\$100	\$175	_____ Phone
_____ Lifetime	\$500		
_____ Corporate	\$1000		

Matching Funds: Many of our members and donors can increase their donation to FOPAL if their employers have a Matching Funds program for registered charities. Please contact info@fopal.org for more information.

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

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