

FOREWORD



Quarterly Issue No. 57

Autumn 2002



Book Sale Moves to Cubberley

Grand Opening There Set for December 14

The Friends of the Palo Alto Library have a new home! After 10 months of discussions with the City, the Friends book sale operation will be moving to re-locatable units being installed by the City at the Cubberley Community Center. The Palo Alto Unified School District extended the time that the Friends could use space at Terman from the end of September to the end of October. Consequently, the book sale at Terman on October 12 was the Friends' last regular sale using the Terman school wing. In November, there will be a mini sale, also at Terman.

The Friends will begin operating at the new location, the city-leased portable modules, with a grand opening on Saturday, December 14. These units provide about 3,000 square feet of book sale space, which is less than half of what our customers have enjoyed at Terman, where we have been operating out of six classrooms.

(Continued on page 2)



Members of the El Carmelo Kids Club collected nearly 100 books to sell at the Friends of the Library Book Sale. Participants in the project included, from left, Asaf Rotman, Graham Fisher, Kids Club Assistant Director Beth Lenze, Conor Kennedy and Michael Buteau. See story on page 6.



Final Push for Measure D

It's not too late to volunteer to get out the vote for Measure D in the Nov. 5 election.

Precinct walking and telephone banking will continue in the final weeks of the campaign.

The \$49.1 million library bond would pay for renovation and expansion of the Children's Library as well as demolition and a five-fold expansion of the Mitchell Park Library and Community Center. To finance it, property owners would pay \$28 annually for each \$100,000 of residential assessed value.

State law requires a two-thirds vote to pass Measure D.

"Measure D has overwhelming support from across Palo Alto," said campaign manager Karen White. "So far we have more than 1,300 community members signed up as 'library allies,' and a long list of respected organization who have endorsed Measure D.

(Continued on page 2)

September Book Sale Earns Record \$14,000

The Friends' three-day sale this September was the biggest ever, bringing in an amazing \$14,000! All of these funds go to help Palo Alto's libraries. Our thanks to the many donors, customers, and hard-working volunteers who make our sales possible, re-circulating over a fifth of a million books into our community each year.

— Jeff Levinsky

(Book Sale Moves, continued from Page 1)

“We recognize that our reduced space will result in crowded conditions on sale day,” said Book Sale Manager Marty Paddock. “However, in arranging the space available, we have set aside a special area for children so they can continue to enjoy looking for their own books.

“There will be a period of serious adjustment for both our faithful volunteers and our many customers while we all learn to operate in this smaller space. We ask that everyone be patient and bear with us while we make this adjustment.”

The new location can be readily accessed from Middlefield Road along the northerly driveway of the Cubberley Community Center immediately adjacent to the Charleston Shopping Center.



(Measure D, continued from Page 1)

“We have many more requests for yard signs than we can fill. We feel very optimistic that the measure will pass and this is the right time for it to pass,” White said.

Supporters of Measure D note that Children’s Library was built in 1940 to handle 15 percent of today’s patrons and books. Besides the crowding, it has serious deficiencies in seismic and fire safety as well as in lighting, heating and plumbing. Measure D would address all those, while preserving the historic building itself.

Mitchell Park Library, built in 1958, is Palo Alto’s most popular library. Since 1950, south Palo Alto has experienced the city’s greatest population growth and the facility is no longer adequate for the demands on it.

Opponents of Measure D argue that the expansion would be excessive and create duplicate areas. The "oversized project," they add, would generate additional costs not covered by the bond.

Measure D has been endorsed by a wide range of community organizations, including the League of Women Voters, the Chamber of Commerce, the Palo Alto City Council, the Palo Alto School Board, the Friends of the Palo Alto Library, the Palo Alto Firefighters Association and the Silicon Valley Realtors Association.

In addition it is backed by: Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, D-Atherton, State Senator Byron Sher, D-Palo Alto, Assemblyman Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto and Santa Clara County Supervisor Liz Kniss.

To volunteer in the Measure D campaign, contact Karen White at 494-7026.



Dear Friends,

The past three years as the President of the Friends has been an incredible experience and honor for me. I have been so fortunate to have a supportive, hard working Board of Directors. And it has been a pleasure to be a part of so much positive change and progress for Palo Alto's libraries. Not a single day has gone by that I haven't marveled at what our venerable 64-year-old organization is all about. We are a complex, and at the same time, simple, group. For example, the Friends' mission to support the Palo Alto Library is simple, and at the same time, very complex. We support the library in so many ways that actually, our challenge has been trying to focus and narrow it down!

And what better focus than current efforts to support the repair and renovation of our two of our library buildings, Children's and Mitchell Park? If (when!!) Measure D wins in November, it will mean that Palo Alto came together as a whole community and said yes to confidence in the future and yes to community assets that directly enhance Palo Alto's quality of life. Palo Alto has a tradition of giving high priority to knowledge and education. A vibrant, contemporary, useful public library system is the hallmark of a community's stature. Palo Alto's libraries were once the envy of other communities; now that we're lagging behind, Yes on Measure D is a sensible solution.

During these past months, I've watched the steady transformation of the focus on our libraries' deficiencies debated in the chamber of City Council and in public meeting rooms all over town. It's true that the free and open debate about the library buildings' future and their fundamental governance has been messy at times. But my confidence has not wavered and I believe Palo Alto will end up with the libraries it deserves.

In June 2000, the Library Advisory Commission identified the need to enlarge our facilities as one of three core ideas in the New Library Plan (NLP). The Friends quickly and wholeheartedly endorsed the NLP and have been advocating for its implementation ever since. We have never lost sight of the fact that libraries are an essential community service. And, as I wrote once before in this space: Our libraries have an important role to play in the life of our city. They provide benefits for every segment of the population.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as president. The new officers have my full support and best wishes as I serve out my remaining year on the board as immediate past president. I inherited from previous boards a legacy of

activism and advocacy that I hope I am passing on intact, strengthened and ready to continue as the vibrant community asset the Friends truly is.

In closing, I've recently started talking about the Friends in different lingo. Because of our 501(c) 3 status, we are often referred to as a nonprofit organization. Instead, I've started trying to talk about and think about our organization not in terms of what we lack (financial profit), but rather in terms of what we really are: a **community benefit**. We benefit our community by advocacy for libraries, by volunteering in libraries and by having our incredible monthly used books sales, to name just a few. To me, the Friends is a "community benefit organization," which I have had the pleasure and honor of serving. Thank you.

— **Shelby Valentine**



Friends Welcome New Board Members

The Friends of the Palo Alto Library Board of Directors welcomed five new members at its Oct. 2 meeting.

They are book sale volunteers **Althea Andersen** and **Norma Burchard**, book sale consultant and former Printer's Inc. owner **Gerry Masteller**, Palo Alto activist **Bob Moss** and former book sale co-manager **Ellen Wyman**.

Stepping down from the board were **Sarah Clark**, **Amy Greene**, **Bob Jack**, **Paula Sandas** and **Cherie Stephens**. Place, Jack and Greene will join the board of the new Palo Alto Library Foundation, which has been spun off from the Friends to raise money to furnish Palo Alto's renovated libraries. Place will be president of the Foundation, and Jack the treasurer.

The board also elected a slate of officers for the coming year: Ellen Wyman, President; Norma Burchard, Vice-President; Wendy Akers-Ghose, Secretary, John Burt, Treasurer and Bob Otnes, Assistant Treasurer.

— **Chris Kenrick**



Steinbeck and the California Experience

Palo Alto libraries are among more than 146 libraries in California observing the centennial of John Steinbeck's birth this October. The project revolves around readings and discussions of Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, in libraries and other community venues throughout the state.

Palo Alto, East Palo Alto and Menlo Park libraries are among a host of libraries statewide receiving \$500 grants to finance the project from its sponsor, the California Council of Humanities.

"*The Grapes of Wrath*' project is designed to strengthen California communities by bringing people together to read John Steinbeck's classic novel, discuss parallels between the book and today's issues, and share stories about their experiences as Californians," the California Council of Humanities said in a statement. "It is the first phase of our California Stories Project, a three-year statewide effort to tell the story of today's Californians."

Palo Alto used its grant funds to acquire more copies of *The Grapes of Wrath*, including editions in Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese, according to librarian and project coordinator Martha Walters. "We really wanted Russian, but they didn't have any," Walters added. Branch libraries also have created displays related to the book's themes.

Palo Alto also will sponsor a reading by author Francisco Jimenez from his recent book, *Breaking Through*, an autobiographical novel of his experience as a child migrant. The event will be Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. at Children's Library. Jimenez is Fay Boyle Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures and Director of the Ethnic Studies Program at Santa Clara University.

For a listing of more local events related to the Steinbeck project, see the library's web site, www.city.palo-alto.ca.us/library.

— **Chris Kenrick**



Children's Library patrons enjoyed harp music and refreshments October 5 while celebrating the 100th birthday of the Palo Alto library system. All six Palo Alto libraries held birthday celebrations that day, with refreshments and entertainment sponsored by the Friends of the Palo Alto Library. Other treats included a list titled "Librarians Choose a Century of Good Books," "Bestsellers from 1902 to 1951," "Favorite Kids' Books of the Palo Alto Librarians," free posters, postcards and historical displays.

Friends of the Palo Alto Public Library		
FINANCIAL REPORT		
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2002		
	FY 2001/02	FY 2000/01
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
INCOME AND EXPENSE		
<u>Income</u>		
Used book sales	\$119,244	\$111,013
Contributions-Children's Library Fund	10,262	32,175
Contributions-Library Lovers' Fund	25,048	23,639
Contributions-Libraries Now!	10,038	0
Contrib.-Palo Alto Library Foundation	14,100	0
Contributions-General Fund	1,644	0
Contributions-Endowment Fund	5,396	5,435
Contributions to individual libraries	6,484	11,316
Membership revenue	10,588	12,983
Investment Income	13,792	12,882
Unrealized gain/(loss) on investments	(15,979)	7,996
<i>Total Income</i>	200,617	217,439
<u>Expense</u>		
Used book sales	6,336	10,245
Fundraising & membership	2,908	2,596
Management & general	4,690	3,166
Grants to library and library programs	199,924	100,746
Libraries Now! Survey	14,000	
Programs for our members	8,979	4,182
<i>Total expense</i>	236,837	120,935
Income over/(under) expenses	(\$36,220)	\$96,504
BALANCE SHEET		
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash & cash equivalents	\$7,342	\$30,645
Accounts receivable	63	0
Marketable securities	331,699	337,146
Prepaid expenses	126	445
<i>Total current assets</i>	339,230	368,236
Computer equipment	1,025	1,025
Accumulated depreciation	(820)	(615)
Total Assets	339,435	368,646
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Accrued expenses	8,896	1,886
Total Liabilities	8,896	1,886
<u>Net Assets:</u>	330,539	366,760
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$339,435	\$368,646
Bob Jack, Treasurer		
8/30/2002		



Remembering John Melville, Book Sale Stalwart

John Melville was already an experienced hand when Ellen and I first started working on Friends' book sales in 1991. He joined Keith Clark in the book room earlier, and the two of them at that time handled all book room activities between sales. On sale day, others would come in to help set up and to cashier. In those days we thought we were doing well if we netted \$1,000 per sale. John was an essential part of Friends' book room activities and saw a tenfold increase in sales over the years he worked with us.

He was a real stalwart. Even after he started using a cane about two years ago, he would still show up daily to bring in and help unpack donations, help recycle cardboard and move around boxes of books. He was 85 when he died and was at the book room even during his last week.

I remember sale after sale in the mid-1990s, before we got space in the 30 Wing Building at Terman. The two of us would haul out and set up tables, trundle book carts around and lug out boxes of books. At the end of each sale we reversed the process. It was always a mystery to me how this octogenarian not only could keep up with me but generally kept me panting. We had a great relationship and worked well together. He knew the Merchant Marine and with my Navy and marine experience, we always had time for a sea story or two. When a copy of *Moby Dick* surfaced, as they often do, he modestly admitted that he used the pen name "Herman" in his early days. He liked playing poker, so when I'd find a book on poker I'd give it to him dryly suggesting it might help improve his game. Two or three days later he'd bring it back saying he could have written it himself.

John was one fine handyman and tinker. He kept our book carts (which we all thought were beyond repair) in repair by staking out and equipping a tool drawer in our desk with his own tools so he wouldn't have to keep going home to get needed items. I remember repair projects we did together, and after talking over the details of the job, he might say, "You know, Tom, occasionally you do have a good idea." Ours was a warm partnership. To use the old-time term, John was "the salt of the earth;" we appreciated him for years and now we miss him every book room day.

A fund benefiting the Friends has been set up by John's family: The John Melville Memorial Fund, Friends of the Palo Alto Library, P.O. Box 41, Palo Alto, CA 94302.

—Tom Wyman



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Once again, we are delighted to recognize our newest Friends members, including the 45 people who patiently stood in line to sign up at our Members-Only Book Sale in September! A warm welcome to each of you from A to Z:

Warren Ahtye, Laurie Aldrich, Swaroop Aradhya, Doug & Barbara Ayer, John Billheimer, Rich Boyles, Martha Burk, John Butler, Richard Cullen, Peter Dent, Beryl Deremigio, Kathy Downing, Jeremy & Keri Edmonds, Curtis Faville, Abraham Flatau, Heather Frey, Ken Huck, Brian Kidd, Martha Kojima, C. Kornel, Julie Lefevre, Sam Leong, Jerry & Marilou Martin, Bob Matilainen, Frank McConnell, Kelly McGonigal, Joseph Milia, Stephanie Munoz, Nancy Neff & family, Nina Nowak, Richard Oehlberg, Bill O'Hanlon, John Pirone, Gail Price, Harry & Susan Quimby, Diane Rejman, Jonathan Sachs, David Schairer, John Scheibe, Gary Seath, A. Selcuk, Larry Shapiro, Frederick Shaw, Carolyn Spitz, Seth Steingraph, Marilyn Stoddard, Donna Taub, Roderic Taylor, Daryl Van Fleet, Catherine Van Raamsdonk, Edgar & Caroline Weber, Robert Whitehead, David Womack, Marla Zayed, Shirley Zimmerman

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

Lucille Adams, Joe Agius, Roger & Mary Ashley, John & Virginia Beahrs, Jane Boulton, Roberta Brosnahan & Robert Odum, Jim & Wileta Burch, Phebe Bush, Tom & Sally Cahill, Allan & Mildred Chin, Kathleen Christy, Jeanette Comroe, Robert Dannenberg, Sandy & Barbara Dornbusch, Joan Dugan, Don Eberhart & Betty Seike, Edwin El-Kareh & Yolena Nazarova, Charles & Judy Faltz, Boris & Gail Foelsch, Betsy Fryberger, Carolyn Gale, Crystal Gamage, Peter & Rosemarie Giamalis, Alayne Greenwald, Jo Guttadauro, Bill & Joan Hancock, Leannah Hunt, Terry Alana Hunter & Mark Wardenburg, Stan Hutchings, Marian Knox, Edwin Laak, Jeff Levinsky, Harry & Marion Lewenstein, Donna Lincoln, Richard & Jing Lyman, Ted & Julie Paulin, Susan Perry, Joseph & Helen Pickering, Paula Richman, John Schaeffer, Howard & Barbara Shaw, Loren & Susan Sorensen, Wayne Swan, David Tuttle, Marie Viezee, Violet Votin, Gerard Vureas & family, Mimi Webb, Raymond White, Wendy Yang & Richard Myers

(Continued on page 6)

(Membership News, continued from Page 5)

Are **YOU** wondering if it is time for you to renew your membership? Please check the label on this newsletter and use the printed form if your membership has expired. You can even charge on-line just by visiting our website at www.friendspaloaltolib.org. Don't worry; Friends will receive 100 percent of that credit card payment. If there isn't a date by your name, it means that you are a Life Member – no need to renew! Thank you all for cutting down on our costs.

— Sarah Clark, Membership

This enterprising group of students collected nine grocery bags of quality books, including history, reference and children's books. The books are being sold at the Friends' Book sale, and all proceeds will benefit Palo Alto libraries.

— Ellen Wyman



Honoring Mary Jo Levy

To honor recently retired Palo Alto Library Director Mary Jo Levy for her enormous service to our community and our libraries, the Friends of the Palo Alto Library are very pleased to enhance an area of the remodeled Children's Library in her name. The Friends have contributed \$40,000 for this effort, which will include a plaque to commemorate Levy's longtime leadership.

— Jeff Levinsky



Calling All Storytellers

Do you enjoy telling and listening to stories? Would you like to practice your storytelling skills?

Check out the Peninsula Story Guild, a group that has been telling stories in Palo Alto libraries, schools, senior centers, nursing homes and other venues for more than 50 years.

At the monthly Family Story Hour at Children's Library, Guild members tell stories suitable for all ages to the public. After the young listeners leave, Guild members and adult guests share stories meant for adults, practice storytelling and share information on aspects of storytelling.

Despite its 54-year history, the Story Guild is now in danger of folding. "Without a new generation of tellers, this long-standing community service organization is going to fold," Children's Librarian and Guild chairwoman Katy Obringer recently told the Palo Alto Weekly.

The Guild is seeking new members to share their love of storytelling and preserve the oral tradition.

"Story Guild members aren't necessarily professional storytellers," Obringer told the Weekly. "Many aren't trained in theater. They don't tell stories as a source of income. But they take their craft seriously and look for every opportunity to engage, inspire and pass down the oral tradition."

Obringer hopes to develop a cadre of storytellers to keep this enjoyable and educational art form alive in Palo Alto.

If you're interested, visit the Family Story Hour on the third Monday of every month at Children's Library at 7 p.m., or contact Obringer at 329-2134 or katy_obringer@city.palo-alto.ca.us.

— Chris Kenrick



El Carmelo Kids Club Helps Libraries

Ten students at El Carmelo School presented nearly 100 books to the Friends of the Palo Alto Library after canvassing their neighborhood for donations.

The students, ages 6 to 12, undertook the project this past spring as members of the El Carmelo Kids Club, the school's after school child care program.

The children knocked on doors and talked to neighbors about the importance of donating books to the library. They worked under the supervision of Kids Club director Rick Rood and assistant director Beth Lenze.

On completing the project, each member of the team wrote a letter to the Terman Library. Michael Buteau's letter summed it up: "This is how we got our books: 1. We went from door to door giving fliers. 2. We went from door to door picking up books that they gave us. I hope you like our books."

"We worked hard," John Kornbluh said in his letter. "Hope you like the books. Glad you're accepting them. Hope you're satisfied."



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

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

Email: info@paloaltofriendslib.org

<p>Monthly Book Sales: Second Saturday Mini Sale, November 9 Terman Library, 661 Arastradero Road 11a.m. to 4 p.m. Grand Opening, December 14 Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Rd. 11a.m. to 4 p.m.</p>	<p>Board of Directors Meeting: First Wednesday Lucie Stern Community Center Community Room, 1305 Middlefield Road 8:30 to 10 a.m. November 6 December 4</p>												
<p>Library Commission: Fourth Thursday Council Conference Room, 260 Hamilton Ave. 7 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">October 24</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 October 10, November 14, December 12, January 9</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>October 10</td> <td>East of Eden</td> <td>John Steinbeck</td> </tr> <tr> <td>November 14</td> <td>About a Boy</td> <td>Nick Hornby</td> </tr> <tr> <td>December 12</td> <td>Nickel and Dimed</td> <td>Barbara Ehrenreich</td> </tr> <tr> <td>January 9, '03</td> <td>Bee Season</td> <td>Myla Goldberg</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>For a list of the books reviewed in the past, driving directions, and other information, please visit our web page: http://www.fopalbookgroup.homestead.com</i></p>	October 10	East of Eden	John Steinbeck	November 14	About a Boy	Nick Hornby	December 12	Nickel and Dimed	Barbara Ehrenreich	January 9, '03	Bee Season	Myla Goldberg
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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 Anderson, 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.