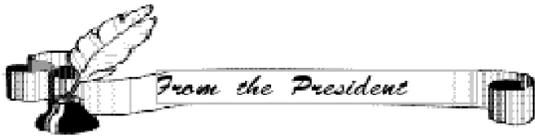


FOREWORD



Quarterly Issue No. 59

Spring 2003



A Gift and a Challenge

This month we REALLY have news. Exciting news! As the result of a phone call from a local woman, a FOPAL member, Friends received a check for \$150,000 for use in expanding Children's Library! *AND* the same donor promises us \$200,000 more *IF* we can raise \$300,000 in private donations by the end of this year. With wonderful visions of a much needed renovated and expanded Children's Library whirling in our heads, Friends went to the City Council where Council members agreed to match whatever we raise up to \$1.2 million. This will be enough to renovate the present Children's Library and to add a North Wing.

I'm certain you'll agree, this is both wonderful and challenging news. I won't lay out all of the numbers here, but it all boils down to this – with the money we already have in hand and funds that are committed (including the \$200,000 that we're promised when we raise \$300,000), we need to raise a total of only \$600,000 and we'll have \$1.2 million. Then, with a matching amount from the City, we can repair and update the much-loved historic building, restore the Secret Garden and also add 1,640 square of additional space.

We all know that the present building, essentially unchanged since it was built 63 years ago, needs renovation, repairs and seismic upgrading. The new North Wing addition will provide space for story-time and other programs, a homework center, areas for quiet reading and, overall, more space for books. The Secret Garden will be

(Continued on page 2)

Be a Library Hero!

Did you know that the City Manager is recommending freezing the open Library Director position for the indefinite future? What a disastrous plan!

Now, as major, basic long-term decisions and fundamental changes to both infrastructure and services are underway, is not a time to be without a Library Director. Such plans need the input of the person who will implement and oversee them now and in the years to come.

It is inconceivable that just as the importance of the library has been formally recognized, by making it a separate department reporting directly to the City Manager, there is to be no department manager. Would the Police Department struggle along without a Police Chief? Would the Fire Department operate without a Fire Chief? The Planning Department without a Planning Director?

If you share our belief that this is a disaster in the making, **please mail in the enclosed postcard.** Add your own comment—personal comments are invaluable—sign, and send it to City Hall today. For more information on this issue, be sure to read the accompanying letter from the Chair of the Library Advisory Commission.

— Ellen Wyman
President



Don't Freeze Library Director

I was surprised and dismayed to see the proposal to freeze the position of the Director of Libraries in the City Manager's budget. This cut will be detrimental, both in the short and long term, to the services that we can provide our library patrons.

(Continued on page 2)

(Don't Freeze continued from page 1)

While we know how important our libraries are to our community and that they have been neglected for years, we also understand that the budget crisis is real. We would prefer, of course, that the library were immune from cuts, but we did not see anything in the proposed cuts that would have a long-term impact in terms of preventing us from reaching our goals for Palo Alto's libraries. However, the freezing of the director position will have just such an effect.

We now have no one person responsible for overall collection development—this highly important job is being done by various people in various positions (and let me remind you that Book/Media Acquisition and Lending is one of the top ten services from the recent community survey).

One of the top six positions identified as being critically needed by the staffing report last year is an Assistant Director. When the staff was asked what was needed in terms of staff they replied "more management." To continue with a shortage of management will have serious consequences both on the staff and on the public. To use the hiring freeze as a reason not to fill this position may be seen by the City Manager as the easy way out, but I expect a more reasonable and thoughtful approach rather than simple expediency.

At this point the community and City are moving ahead on many fronts. The Library Foundation is getting started, a major fund raising effort is about to get under way for the Children's Library and the LAC is working on a revised New Library Plan. At the same time, the library is facing budget and staff cuts requiring reworking of schedules, staff training and new collection strategies.

It is imperative that we have management in place to handle these challenges, a Director for long term and strategic planning and full-time managers of all the resource libraries for day-to-day operations and staff oversight. Thus, it is essential that funds for the Library Director's position be included in the budget for fiscal year 2003-2004 and that steps be taken immediately to reopen the recruitment process.

— **Lenore Jones**
Chair, Library Advisory Commission

(President's Message continued from page 1)

restored to an area of special charm with hedges, walls and trees forming separate green shady nooks and spaces for doll teas, pirate parties, mimes, singers and storytellers who spin tales for children of all ages.

These heart-warming anticipations have stirred up something of a frenzy within our group. Friends has never considered itself a fund raising group as such, aside from

our remarkably successful monthly book sales that serve the entire community. Our board members do not have fund raising expertise nor have we that particular orientation, but we simply cannot let this opportunity slip by.

And so we are pleased to announce the formation of the Children's Library Community Campaign, a coalition of four equal partners, Friends, the newly formed Palo Alto Library Foundation, the Library Advisory Commission and City library staff. Together, we are organizing a community-wide fund raising campaign to bring Children's Library into the 21st century and to prepare it for many more years of service.

Of course, we're told this is a very tough time to raise money and, indeed, we see many signs that this may be true. But what could be a more worthy cause than supporting the Children's Library? We know it will be here serving our community for many more years, and we know that families--youngsters and parents alike--will continue to use and love it.

Stay tuned! You will be hearing lots more about our campaign for Children's Library. And we do hope that the spirit of Aunt Lucie Stern, which surely reached out and touched our wonderfully generous anonymous donor, may also reach out and touch you.

— **Ellen Wyman**
President



Drawing by Virginia Kolence

Community Campaign for Children's

The Friends of the Palo Alto Library has teamed up with the Palo Alto Library Foundation, the Library Advisory Commission and city and library staff to raise enough money to renovate the existing Children's Library, add a north wing and improve the adjacent Secret Garden. The Children's Library Community Campaign will provide Palo Alto children with more space for books, a storytime area, an outdoor reading garden for families, a homework center, tables and chairs for quiet reading and the capacity to provide additional programs for children and families.

Please support the Friends of the Palo Alto Library's efforts to improve Children's Library while maintaining its historic character.

“I think the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture, and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support libraries.”

Carl Sagan (1934-1996)
Astronomer, educator, author



It's No Surprise— Libraries are Tops

City Hall recently discovered what you and I already knew. After fire, police and paramedics, the city service “most important” to Palo Altans is—libraries.

In the city's last survey, libraries were rated even more important than open space and parks. Acquisitions and lending of books and media outranked youth programs and streets and sidewalks. Neighborhood branch libraries were accorded more importance than traffic enforcement, development projects and zoning, tree trimming and affordable housing. Foreign language materials in libraries outranked traffic calming and public art.

Let's face it—our libraries are an important and valued resource and service. The city asked us what we valued most and we told them. Now, let's insist that the city and the budget treat them accordingly.

— Ellen Wyman
President



Join the Children's Parade!

Bring your children or grandchildren and walk with the Children's Library in the May Fete Parade on May 3. Children's Library has a section every year! We dress up as our favorite book characters (use those Halloween costumes, create a special costume or wear a sandwich board provided by the library). Call Children's Library at 329-2134 to reserve a sandwich board and to sign up. If you decide to come at the last minute, that's okay too. Just meet us downtown at 9:30 or so. We will know our lineup number the day before the parade, or you can ask a marshal for our number. Come join us!

The month of May is “It's for the Kids!” month at Kepler's Books. When you are making purchases at Kepler's and you say, “it's for the kids,” Kepler's will donate 10 percent of

that sale toward the purchase of children's books for local libraries. So plan to do your buying at Kepler's in May.

The Children's Library is small in size but large in impact. Did you know that Children's:

- has 3,360 square feet (second smallest of Palo Alto's six branches)?
- has the highest use per square foot of all six libraries?
- had 129,900 visits last year?
- had 285,350 items checked out last year?

Over 15,000 patrons participate more than 200 special programs per year at Children's Library. These programs include baby, toddler and preschool storytimes, after-school specials for elementary students, family storytimes, special events and summer reading programs.

Join the fun! Pick up a Children's Services calendar of events at any of the Palo Alto libraries.

— Katy Obringer
Children's Librarian



Foundation Takes Wing

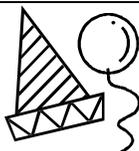
In October 2002, the Palo Alto Library Foundation (PALF) hatched when it received its tax-exempt status. And now, with the launch of the Children's Library Community Campaign, the Foundation is taking wing.

The beginning of March saw a change in Foundation leadership when Mary Jean Place, the founder of PALF, moved to France for a year. New PALF President Kathy Miller leaped into the vacancy Mary Jean left behind. Because the fund for Children's Library needs the Foundation's help to raise matching funds by the end of 2003, the Foundation needed to be brought up to speed in short order. This has been done. New PALF board members have been added, bringing the total to nine; a website has been launched (www.palf.org) and fundraising software has been purchased and is being set up to track donations. As a result of these efforts, the Foundation has become a full partner in the Children's Library fund along with the Friends, LAC, and library/city staff.

— Katharine Miller
President, Palo Alto Library Foundation

“The library is the temple of learning, and learning has liberated more people than all the wars in history.”

Carl Rowan (1925-2000)
Syndicated columnist



Birthday Kids

Have you ever considered having your friends make a donation in your name to the Children's Library Community Campaign as an alternative to bringing you birthday gifts? This donation will help enlarge and renovate Palo Alto Children's Library! And the gift is tax deductible.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

April 1, 2003

A warm welcome to new members:

**Victor L Befera, Shirley A. FinFrock, Jack Ohms,
Richard & Bonnie Sibley, Elsie Taboroff**

and to lifetime members:

Richard & Joan Bialek, Richard Karp

A big "thank you" to returning members:

Constance P. Barrell, Louise Barsotti, Louise & Stuart Beattie, Sue & Bill Beaver, Clara Berger, John E. Bingham, Gerry Bowman, Helen & W.R. Brooks, Marilyn & Robert Burnes, Carolyn Caddes, Katie Cho, Susan & Robert Christiansen, Richard Ciapponi, Barbara Cleveland, William R. Clifton, Joan & Gordon Cohen, Charlotte Cole, Tom & Marge Collins, Constance Crawford, William L. Crull, Consilia E. d'Andrea, Karen & Dick Damian, Kathleen Davenport, Courtenay W. Dawson-Roberts, Bruce E. Deal, Vaughn & Charlotte Deline, Lena M. Diethelm, Hilary Donahue, Cynthia & John Dorgan, Mary Dougherty & Brian Carilli, Susan Elgee & Steve Eglash, Lorela Fajardo, Janet & Louis Fisher, Abraham Flatau, Sybil Florant, Nancy & Ed Fox, Stephanie & Michael Friduss, Paul F & Jean S Garrett, John M. Gill, Sondra & Joseph Glider, Doug & Verna Graham, Joan & Ben Grammar, John Haeger, Irene Hern, Maureen Hoberg, Peter Holland, Margaret Humphrey, Anthony Jackson, Edna Jaffee, Faye L Johnson, Myrtle S Johnson, the John Kagel Family, Helen Kaplan, Richard Karp, Nancy & Alan Karp, Tina Kass, Barbara & Charles Kingsley, Sheila Kingston, Agnes Kirkeby, Yoriko Kishimoto, Jennifer Kleckner, Laverne Kleeberg, Joanne Koltnow, Jan Krawitz, Suzanne & Jerry Krumbein, Ruth & Dick Lacey, Monica Lasgoity, Helen Leppert, Arthur Levin, Donald & Rachel Levy, Marian C Lockwood, Mandy Lowell, Barbara & William Lucas, Gwen Luce, Dallas & Larry Manning, Jeffrey & April Mccandless, Frank Mcconnell, Joan & Robert McCowan, Paula McFarland, Robert G Meuter, Ruth & Philip Meyerson, Ruth M Moor, Betty Q Moore, Robert & Harriet Moss, Elsbeth Newfield, Margaret Newton, David M Ng, Frances Nitzberg, Robert G. Nordman, Katy Obringer, Anita & Ingram Olkin, Angela Owen, Roland E. Pasternack, Anne Peck, Helen & Joseph F. Pickering, Carolyn & Thomas Reese, Alice Reeves, Nancy Rhea, Lisa Rogers, Ann Roper, Patricia J. Saffir, Irene & John Sampson, Betty & John Schneider, Anne A Scitovsky, Paul & Kirsten Seaver, Ellen Semaya & Ronald Krasnow, Charles & Claire Shoens, Frederic Silverman, Marilyn Dale & Rick Simbeck, Marilyn & Clint Smith, Ellen &



FOPAL Contributions at Work

Storytelling workshops are among the many library activities supported by the Friends of the Palo Alto Library. A grateful participant in one of the workshops, a library student at San Jose State University, posted the following to his fellow students:

"I'd like to share with you a wonderful experience that I just had. Last night I attended the first of two free storytelling workshops at the Palo Alto Children's Library. The workshop is sponsored by the Peninsula Story Guild and is conducted by Natalie Bivas, a well-known local storyteller. Natalie told three stories and after each one she instructed us in how she selected stories, how she breaks them down into character characteristics, story episodes, conflicts and resolutions. This breakdown is done so that she can tell stories without the use of a book and can amend them at will to make each telling more unique. There was also a discussion of whether to use props and audience participation or not.

"This was my first such endeavor and I loved it. To not only hear and see these stories being told, but also to learn a great way of planning out the telling was fascinating and quite informative. If the library can receive further funding for these workshops there may be several others in the near future. I highly recommend participation by any of you that are interested in children's libraries. We learned a lot and also had a great deal of fun in the learning.

"Please go check out the library even if you can't attend. It's a wonderful location with a "secret garden" and I was told that it was the first children's library in the nation that was separate from a main library."

— Stephen Meeks

Dennis Smith, Hershel D. Smith, Sylvia J. Smitham, Margaret & Charles Stein, Carol & Noel Stevens, Eric & Allison Taborek, Elizabeth D Taft, Carol & Ludwig Tannenwald, Mary Jane & Fielding Tapp, Louise Thursby, Victor & Susan Tsai, Virginia Walbot, Ed Walker, Sarabel D. Wardle, Karen L.White, Lynn & John Wiese, Shalah S. Wolfsohn, Gail Woolley, Margaret Worland, Betsy & George Young, and Jin Zhu.

We recently sent out renewal letters and 25% of you renewed within a week. Please stay with Friends. We need you more than ever, not only your monetary contributions but also your volunteer efforts and your voice as a library supporter and advocate.

Speaking of volunteers, our sincere thanks to **Sheila Kingston** who helped us with the distribution of the renewal letters.

— **Shantha Mohan**



The Library Comes Home

Operation Homebound began in 1973 to provide library services and materials to Palo Altans unable to visit the city's libraries because of physical or emotional limitations. Over the years the program has evolved and users have varied, from disabled students confined to home due to illness or special needs to middle aged adults recovering from surgery to visually impaired older seniors living in assisted care settings. This program counts heavily on both referrals and volunteers.

Operation Homebound attempts to reach local residents who might otherwise go unserved. I coordinate the program and recruit both volunteers and patrons wanting to participate. Ideally, the homebound and the server are matched in terms of reading tastes and interests. Typically a volunteer spends two to four hours a month, visiting every four to six weeks. All materials are loaned for six weeks and no fines are charged. Books, tapes and other materials are taken to the homes in special canvas bags. Items checked out are recorded in a log kept by the volunteer to avoid duplication or an unhappy reader. Friendships are often forged over repeated visits, though delivery of library materials is the primary focus.

One very active volunteer has served sixteen readers over her long career with Operation Homebound, and says she has been greatly enriched by the experience. One of the absolute delights comes in matching people with books that suit their needs or interests and providing a necessary service to those who are often avid, lifelong readers. Some

users have visual problems and need books on CDs or tape while others take advantage of large type. Many served are older women who no longer live in their own homes, although we do have two couples as well.

In fiscal year 2001-2002, Operation Homebound served 44 patrons, with 367 visits using 28 volunteers. We continue to build this program and are always on the lookout for Palo Alto residents who no longer can visit the libraries but still desire materials. Shantha Mohan, a Friends of the Library board member recently became a volunteer and we can always use more! Know someone who might benefit from this great service, or want to volunteer? Please call me at 329-2644.

— **Barb Geibel**
Coordinator, Library Programs



March Sale Tops \$10,000

The March Book Sale turned out to be both a financial success and a festive occasion. About 175 people waited in line for our 11 a.m. opening. One customer coming into the already crowded room said "What a hoot!" Nearly all of our previous errors had been corrected and the sale went smoothly. Althea Anderson's son Mark counted the incoming customers—a total of about 500 for the day. We are inspected and approved for a capacity of 200 at any given time.

We added books to the empty shelves in the afternoon and were delighted to find \$10,062 in the till at the end of the day. We are definitely back in business, thanks to our growing donations and our hard-working volunteers.

— **Marty Paddock**
Book Sale Manager



Where to Donate Books

Donations for the Book Sale should be dropped off at Cubberley Community Center. Take the north entrance into Cubberley. We are in a portable building at the northwest corner, near the Charleston Shopping Center.



Thank you, Piazza's

We thank Piazza's Fine Foods for free advertising on grocery bags and for donations of bags for our bag sale. They win our **Good Neighbor** Award!

Grateful Recipients

The Friends of the Palo Alto Library received the following letter from "The Friendly Social Group," patient advocates at the Veteran's Administration Nursing Home in Menlo Park:

This letter of appreciation is given to the Palo Alto Friends of the Library and Maggie Anderson for all of the books that were donated to the VA Menlo Park Nursing Home, B331D.

The Friendly Social Group really appreciates all of the work that Maggie has done representing the Friends of the Library.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.

Arden Farey and Gordon Schmelzer, co-chairmen
John W. Anderson, executive secretary



Terman Library Letter

On March 5, the Friends of the Palo Alto Library sent a letter to the Palo Alto City Council urging Council members to resist recommendations to close Terman Library. "Closing Terman was justified as saving about \$65,000 a year, but this overlooks the many offsetting benefits of retaining Terman Park Library," the letter said.



Discuss Great Books

All readers are welcome at Great Books, a national book discussion group that meets the second Wednesday of every month from 7:30 to 9:30 at the Oak Creek Apartments Club House, 1600 Sand Hill Road, Palo Alto. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Great Books publications.

The selection for May 14 is Emily Dickinson's Poetry. It includes the poems *There is a Certain Slant of Light*, *After Great Pain a Formal Feeling Comes*, and *Because I Could Not Stop for Death*. In June, the reading selection is George Eliot's Middlemarch.

The shared discussion aims to help all readers engage in a meaningful exchange of ideas. For more information, call Oak Creek Apartments Club House at 321-9920 or Great Books coordinator Elsie Taboroff at 493-8629.

— Elsie Taboroff



The FOPAL Website

Visit <http://www.friendspaloaltolib.org/> to get the latest on Friends' activities. In addition to getting up to date information about Friends' Book Sales, you also will find news regarding city's management of libraries, and Children's Library Community Campaign, links to various web sites related to libraries and book clubs, and interesting book games for all ages. You also will find information about joining friends (and how to do it using credit card!), archives of FOREWORD and e-newsletters.

Friends of the Palo Alto Library Members Only Book Sale

Friday Evening, May 9, 2003 Doors Open 7:00 pm. Close 9:00 pm.

at Friends' New Book Sale Building,
Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Rd.

Take Cubberley Northern Access Road to end.
(The Terman Book Sale site will not be open)

This Page is Your Ticket to the Sale

Limit - 25 items per Membership

Non-Members may get membership to Friends at the Sale

Regular Sale will be held Saturday, May 10, 11 am to 4 pm at both Cubberley and Terman
Locations.

For Information: Cubberley 213-8755; Terman 493-7432

Join Friends Of The Palo Alto Library!

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

e-mail (optional) _____

I would like to join as:

Student \$10 School _____

Individual \$15

Sponsor \$100

Lifetime \$500

Senior, 62+ \$10

Family \$25

List Family Members _____

Patron \$250

Business/Corporate \$1000 & up

Donation to Matching Fund for Children's Library Expansion \$ _____

I would like to volunteer:

Fund Raising

Membership

Staffing Book Sales

Art and Graphics

Friends Board

Program and Project Assistance

Friends Publicity

Please make checks payable to the

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

Email: info@paloaltofriendslib.org

Monthly Book Sales: Second Saturday

Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Rd.
Terman Library, 661 Arastradero Road in Palo Alto.
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Library Commission: Fourth Thursday

Council Conference Room, 250 Hamilton Ave. 7 p.m.
See <http://www.city.palo-alto.ca.us/clerk/schedule.html>
to confirm meeting date and time.

Board of Directors Meeting: First Wednesday

Lucie Stern Community Center Community Room
1305 Middlefield Road 8:30 to 10 a.m.

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
*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>

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.