

FOREWORD



Quarterly Issue No. 72

Fall 2006

Adventures of a 21st Century Journalist

Imagine a war zone in Iraq, regime change in the USSR,
or a tsunami in Indonesia.



Reporter Richard C. Paddock
"has been there, done that!"

Paddock, with 29 years of reporting on 50 countries for the Los Angeles Times, will discuss his take on world politics and the future of print journalism at the

Annual meeting of the Friends of the Library

Thursday, October 19, 2006

7:30 pm

Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium

1313 Newell Rd.

FYI: Richard is a grad of UC Santa Barbara. His current assignment is in San Francisco and he is the son of Marty Paddock, Manager of the wildly successful FOPAL Book Sales.

Free and open to the public-
Refreshments provided

Diane Jennings—A Dedicated Librarian

It's amazing what one comes across when leafing through Palo Alto's history records at Main Library. I recently found on Steve Staiger's desk some copies of *Dewey's Dirt*, the newsletter published years ago by the Palo Alto library staff.

The November-December 1986 issue ran a newsy article welcoming Diane Jennings as the manager of the Main Library. We learned that Diane's first library job was as a student at Duke University working in circulation for ten hours a week. After graduation, she found she just couldn't keep away from the library and got a job as a Lost Book Searcher. In Diane words, "I would vanish into the book stacks hunting lost books. I learned a lot about the weird ways people can incorrectly shelve books, and I found a lot of those missing books. It was a challenge and fun!" After becoming supervisor of the circulation desk, it occurred to her, "If I'm going to stay in this library business, I should get a degree."

With that, Diane enrolled in the librarianship program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, eight miles down the road from Duke. She took a full course schedule with an emphasis on public library work, while working part time in the school's geology library. After graduation, Diane and her husband, John, climbed into a white VW bus and for a year and a half traveled across the United States and Eastern Canada: -- New Brunswick, Quebec, Nova Scotia, you name it, they've been there.

They finally climbed out of their VW and started looking for jobs. Diane landed a job as the director of a small county library in Virginia. It was a great job for someone fresh out of library school. "I had to be involved in everything, including acquisitions, cataloguing, circulation, reference, budget, and dealing with everyone from the library board to the county supervisors. But the pay was miserable, and I decided to go back to school."

With that, Diane enrolled at Virginia Tech part time while working as the head of a branch library in Blacksburg, Virginia. She graduated four years later with another masters degree, this time in political science with an emphasis on public administration. It was then off to New England where John had had gotten a job as an assistant dean at Dartmouth. Diane went onto say, "New Hampshire is beautiful, but there are few libraries and few library jobs." Eventually she landed a job with the Vermont State Library as a regional librarian/consultant, "I had a

daily round trip commute of 110 mile, but the Interstate goes through beautiful country -- lots of lakes, lots of moose -- lots to see." Diane recalled that as a consultant, "I visited each of the 45 libraries which borrowed materials from the regional library at St. Johnsbury where I worked. Often the community's library would be in a lovely little building donated by a wealthy citizen -- stained glass windows, a spiral staircase, slate roof -- but that was the extent of the endowment. There was little money for books. Part of my job was to select books for the regional library that could be placed in local libraries."

When John was accepted for admission to Stanford's School of Education, the Jennings began subscribing to Bay Area newspapers. An ad in the *San Jose Mercury* for manager of Palo Alto's Main Library caught Diane's eye. "I remember thinking, gee, I wonder if I could do it?" She recalled visiting Palo Alto for the first time and talking with Mary Jo Levy about the position. Diane returned to New England and then was asked to return for an interview. She and John loaded up their Toyota. "We drove across the country," Diane said, "and got to Palo Alto at 3:30 p.m. on a Thursday. At 8 a.m. the next day I showed up for the interview." She got the job.

When asked 20 years ago about what changes she'd like to see here in Palo Alto, Diane's remarks were insightful and could just have well been made just yesterday. She expressed concern over the twin problems of more library services and increasing staff workload. "This staff is *so busy*," she said, "We are adding services, and in-library use is increasing; yet staff levels remain the same. Moreover, it's hard to discontinue a service once you've started it." Indeed, in previous positions, Diane has had a great deal of experience in getting across to local governing bodies and library boards just what it takes to run a library as well as what can and cannot be done with available resources. This experience continues to serve her well here in Palo Alto.

Diane, we all wish you all the best and smooth sailing in calm seas during your time as Interim Library Director.

- Tom Wyman with thanks to Kristine Wenburg who wrote the original article. Kristine grew up in Palo Alto and is now with the Timberland Library in Olympia, WA

From the President

2005-06

\$724,844

A Lot of Giving

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the Cable Co-op, an anonymous major donor, numerous individual and corporate contributors, thousands of book donors and book sale customers, and our many members, the Friends of the Palo Alto Library has been able to fund a dazzling array of activities in the Palo Alto Library.

The graph on this page details our giving to the Palo Alto Library over the last three fiscal years. As you can see, we underwrite children and teen programs throughout the school year and during the summer, add many books and DVDs to the core collection, buy extra copies of popular titles to cut down on hold times, provide furniture, and much, much more.

The Children's Library project is the largest in our history, and we're thrilled that our funding provided the catalyst for an over \$4 million total renovation and major expansion of the historic building. We also provided about \$44,000 in seed funding for the campaign and will cover some of the new fixtures, furniture, and equipment for the branch, which is scheduled to reopen next year.

Our Cubberley Community Center booksale is growing, thanks to the many superb books and other materials that the community contributes, the extraordinary energy and commitment of our volunteers, and the devotion of our many customers. Without

(Continued on page 6)

<p>Children's Library \$470,000</p>
<p>Books \$63,758 <i>extra copies of high-demand titles, books for school discussions, teen paperbacks, memorial gifts, children's books, ...</i></p>
<p>Programs for Children \$19,500 <i>storytimes, summer reading</i></p>
<p>Internet Access \$79,127 <i>5 additional laptops, building wiring improvements including major upgrade at College Terrace, printer supplies</i></p>
<p>DVDs \$39,720 <i>extra copies of high-demand titles, plus more for teens and College Terrace and Downtown branches</i></p>
<p>Online Resources \$30,365 <i>Historical New York Times language training, test preparation, World Book, Chilton's Auto Repair, ...</i></p>
<p>Furniture and Other Items \$22,374</p>

2004-05

\$92,659

<p>2003-04 \$68,297</p>	<p>Books \$25,873 <i>popular and foreign language titles, books for school discussions, ...</i></p>
<p>Books \$5,633</p>	<p>Programs for Children \$19,000 <i>storytimes, summer reading</i></p>
<p>Programs for Children \$26,000 <i>storytimes, summer reading, homework helper</i></p>	<p>Internet Access \$34,528 <i>14 laptops at Main and Mitchell Park, wireless access, new color and black/white printers</i></p>
<p>Online Resources \$32,664 <i>Historical New York Times language training, test preparation, World Book, topical issues database</i></p>	<p>Online Resources \$7,163</p>
<p>Other Items \$4,000</p>	<p>Other Items \$6,095</p>

Note: Single-year grants are listed in the year awarded, while multi-year grants are reported by the expenditure in each year.

Palo Alto's Where the Action Is!

We've bragged before about the over 140 wonderful, generous, hard-working volunteers who make our book sale happen. Our book sales certainly couldn't wouldn't happen without these very necessary people.

Now we want to brag further and tell you that 22 of those people don't even live in PA! They live in eight, yes eight, nearby communities – including Paso Robles!

Stanford - It's probably not too surprising that some – four to be exact – live on the Stanford campus. Not too surprising because Stanford does use our libraries as general purpose libraries. Graduate student **Joshua Koran** very capably manages our business and economics sections and he recently announced that he is now a father (of two-week old **Alexander**)! **Sisi Kapp**, a graduate student at Stanford, is a whiz at sorting new donations and now assists in the ever-burgeoning cookbooks section. **Les Zatz**, MD, Professor of Radiology, responds to frequent calls for help, while his wife **Micki**, manages biography and masterminds those frantic sale day operations.

Menlo Park - Our four volunteers from Menlo Park: **Lynn Hum**, a very busy community activist, volunteers as a substitute and backup when we're short-handed. **Sandra Huet**, who has worked with and loved books for years. Her knowledge, her interest, can do/will do attitude are great to work with. **Bill Steele**, always eager, ready and willing for whatever. He's wonderful at the physical – delivering boxes, flattening cardboard (of which we have much). **Mary Smith**, fortunately for us, manages the art section. A former Stanford art docent, Mary knows art

and is willing to check the internet for pricing when that is appropriate. Art thrives under her guidance.

Los Altos – Close as Los Altos is, we have only one Los Altos volunteer – **Liz Davis**. Liz is terrific. She manages non-fiction, travel essays and fills in for Mary when Mary is away. Liz is an idea gal, always there with new ideas, new suggestions, does her own interneting, shares her handsome printing generously. She's a winner.

Mountain View – **Dave Foutz** saves us monthly. Each month on set-up day (the Friday before the monthly sale day) Dave delivers countless boxes of books from one place to another and sets up tables. He often finds time to set up on Saturday morning and help out on both sale days. **Rommel Struckus** does a lot of the heavy work moving books to the K-wing; he sorts books, prices postcards, and moves boxes all in the best of spirits. **Frank McConnell**, manager of our busiest station – computing. Frank knows his field very well but he is regularly almost buried alive. Frank will be featured in our next *Foreword*.

Sunnyvale – **Robert (Rob) Black** comes in after work and does heavy lifting, and sorts books (while his wife, Veronica, feeds squirrels next door at the Wildlife Rescue Center in Cubberley). Two very important people, **Jim and Marge Dean**, both help. Jim is in charge of our large record collection. He spends a lot of time listening and pricing and working in our Bargain Room. Marge works at the sales usually as a cashier. **Edwin El-Kareh**, has played several major roles for us for years. He now manages the Science section. **Lena Nazarova**, Edwin's wife, started sorting music for us just weeks after she arrived here

from Russia. With a pre-schooler now she's on a temporary leave-of-absence.

San Jose – **Katy Obringer**, our former Children's Library manager, graciously steps in when we have a major problem in our children's room. She is wonderful of course. **Arun and Sonica Thakur** have driven up from San Jose monthly for some time now to cashier at our sales. Important people!

Saratoga – **Dave Rearic**, a long-time volunteer is a carpenter. Besides helping with moving books and setting up the sale he is our handyman. We count on him for repairs, for reinforcing shelves, and much more. Irreplaceable!

Paso Robles – Our star volunteer for traveling furthest to get here is **Kathy Barnett**. Kathy, a key volunteer for years, now comes for most sale days and frequently for Friday set-up day. She is quite capable of sorting, arranging, planning, cashiering – she even vacuums!

As you can see we are blessed by an amazing number and assortment of volunteers. We marvel (and thank our lucky stars) that they are willing to come so far and work so hard to help our libraries. Of course the truth is we are all good friends, we enjoy doing it and we truly value the fact that we are helping libraries.

Three cheers for volunteers!
Three more cheers for out-of-town volunteers!

Marty Paddock
Book Sale Manager

Palo Alto Reads...Funny in Farsi



Library Launches the First City-Wide Book Club: *Palo Alto Reads... Funny in Farsi*

You are invited to help make history this fall by joining the largest book club Palo Alto has ever seen. *Palo Alto Reads ... Funny in Farsi* is a month-long series of programs that aims to foster a sense of community by bringing people together through literature. Inspired by the success of similar initiatives in Seattle and other communities, Palo Alto City Library invites everyone to read the same great book at the same time – the charming and hilarious book, *Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America* by Palo Alto resident, Firoozeh Dumas. Former President Jimmy Carter hailed the book as "A humorous and introspective chronicle of a life filled with love--of family, country, and heritage."

Palo Alto Reads ... Funny in Farsi kicks off with a free talk for the community by **Ms. Dumas** at Palo Alto High School's Haymarket Theater on **Tuesday, October 10 at 7:30 pm**. Kepler's will provide books to purchase. This event is presented by the Palo Alto City Library, the Friends of the Palo Alto Library, the Palo Alto Unified School District and the Palo Alto High PTSA.

The Library will subsequently host a month-long series of great programs. Here is the calendar of events:

Parent/Teen Book Discussion

October 15, 3:30 pm, Mitchell Park Library

In celebration of Teen Read Week and **Palo Alto Reads**, we will be discussing *Funny in Farsi*. Persian treats and tea served.

Friends of the Palo Alto Library Annual Meeting, with Speaker **Richard C. Paddock**

October 19, 7:30 pm, Palo Alto Art Center

Richard C. Paddock is a journalist for the Los Angeles Times who has been Bureau Chief in Moscow, Jakarta and Singapore, and has had two recent assignments to Baghdad. The public is invited to attend this free talk. There will also be a small book sale of biographies of print and media journalists, media writings and Middle East history and literature. For more information go to the Friends web site.

A Persian Excursion

October 20, 7:30 pm, Main Library

A wonderful evening celebrating Iranian and Middle Eastern cultures with a reading by poets Esther Kamkar and Persis Karim (*Let Me Tell You Where I've Been: New Writings by Women of the Iranian Diaspora*), music by Ahl-i Nafs (People of the Spirit), and Persian classical dance by the Niosha Dance Academy. Persian refreshments served.

Funny in Farsi Book discussion

October 24, noon, Downtown Library

Bring a brown bag lunch. Persian treats and tea served.

Afterschool Special: Tales from the Arabian Nights

October 25, 3:30 pm, Main Library

For children in grades K – 5.

Starlight Special: Roya Ansari Presents *Iran – Ancient Land, Civilization, People and Culture*

November 1, 7:00 pm, Mitchell Park Library

A program for families with children ages 4 and up.

Reza Aslan, *The Future of US/Iran Relations*

November 4, 7:00 pm, Cubberley Theater

Reza Aslan, an internationally acclaimed writer and scholar of religions, is Middle East Commentator for NPR's Marketplace and Muslim Affairs Analyst for CBS News. He is the author of *No God But God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam*. Born in Iran, Reza Aslan now lives in Santa Monica, Ca, where he is a Research Associate at the University of Southern California's Center on Public Diplomacy .

Funny in Farsi Book discussion

November 8, 7:30 pm, College Terrace Library

Persian treats and tea served.

You can participate in Palo Alto Reads by:

- Checking out the book, [Funny in Farsi](#), at any Palo Alto City Library.
- Telling friends, neighbors and book clubs about Palo Alto Reads.
- Coming to any and/or all free Library programs.

Palo Alto Reads ... Funny in Farsi is sponsored by the Friends of the Palo Alto Library, the Palo Alto Weekly and Palo Alto Online, the Persian Center, Simply Interactive LLC, and IDEM Translations.

Election of Board of Directors at Annual Meeting

At our Annual Meeting, the yearly election of board members and officers will take place.

Thursday, October 19, 2006

7:30 pm

Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium

1313 Newell Rd., Palo Alto

The Friends of the Library Nominating Committee proposes the following new directors for 2007-2008:

John Burt
Enid Pearson

The committee proposes the following returning directors for new two-year terms (2007-2008):

Rudy Batties
Gretchen Emmons
Jeff Levinsky
Gerry Masteller
Gloria Reade
Steve Staiger
Ellen Wyman

The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of officers for the upcoming year:

President:
Betsy Allyn

Vice President:
Martha Schmidt

Secretary:
Margarita Quihuis

Treasurer:
Jeff Levinsky

Assistant Treasurer:
John Burt

Submitted by *Barbara Silberling*
Chair, Nominating Committee

From the President cont. from page 3

adding sale hours or floor space, booksale income for January through September of 2006 rose 17.4% over the same period a year earlier, an achievement any retailer would be proud to report. At the same time, the sale finds new readers for hundreds of thousands of books at prices often no higher than a few days of overdue fines. We'll have a full financial report on our 2005-2006 fiscal year in an upcoming Foreword issue.

The \$422,000 Cable Co-op Legacy Grant to our Nine Libraries Project has eased the wait time to use the Internet at the Main and Mitchell Park libraries by supplying patrons with many wireless laptops, including five more purchased just recently. The grant also pays for color and black/white printers at all five Palo Alto branches, additional wireless access, extensive rewiring so that more computers can be added, and important online resources such as the Historical New York Times. Beyond what's shown on the graph, the project supports the East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Belle Haven, and Atherton libraries and will purchase even more resources for Palo Alto libraries in upcoming years.

Our membership, Library Lovers Fund and Annual Appeal contributors, local foundations, and matching corporate donations also provide substantial financial support. We appreciate all these generous individuals and organizations. It's not coincidence that Palo Altans give our five-branch library system an 87% satisfaction rating and visit the library more often and check out more items than people in almost all other California cities.

Thanks to many, many individuals who enjoy and care about libraries, the Friends of the Palo Alto Library continue to thrive and serve our community.

Jeff Levinsky, President
Jeff@friendspaloaltolib.org

Correction:

On page 3 of our Summer 2006 issue, Wayne Martin wrote that, "Currently (in 2004-05), about 37% of the [Palo Alto] library's circulation is DVDs, 45% is comprised of children's materials and adult books make barely 20% of the circulation." Per the Palo Alto Library, the correct statistics are that DVDs and video tapes represent about 24% of circulation and adult books another 34%.

Members' Early Sale is on Saturday, October 14



Members of the Friends of the Palo Alto Library will be admitted early to the Main Room sale on **Saturday, October 14.**

Life members will get in at 9 am and can purchase up to 50 books during that hour.

At 10 am, all members will be admitted and everyone can buy the usual 12 books at a time.

At 11 am, the public will be admitted and the limit on 12 books at a time will expire at noon.

The Bargain Room will open at 9:30 for non-members and members. The Children's Room will open at 10 am.

The tickets given out that month will be for the 10 am line, since most people who come early are members of the Friends. Each member will get just one ticket, although members at the \$25 through \$250 levels get to bring in their families.

Regular membership in the Friends is only \$15 (\$10 for students and seniors, \$25 for families) and is tax-deductible. Members also receive a discount coupon for the sale, discounts at Books Inc. at the Stanford Shopping Center, and eligibility for the Stanford Federal Credit Union.

If you are not a member, you can join the Friends on the day of the book sale.
Or save time by mailing in the form below or joining online at www.friendspaloaltolib.org.
You can check if your membership has expired by looking at your address label on the back.

Friends of the Palo Alto Library Membership Form

I/We would like to join or renew at the following level:

- Individual \$15
- Family \$25
- Student \$10
- Senior, 62+ \$10
- Supporter \$50
- Sponsor \$100
- Patron \$250
- Lifetime \$500 (No dues reminder!)
- Corporate \$1000

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

Please return form to:
Friends of the Palo Alto Library
P.O. Box 41
Palo Alto, CA 94302

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email- used only for Friends' email notices. Please print. _____

Please make checks payable to Friends of the Palo Alto Library. For credit cards:

Visa Master Card _____
Credit Card Number Expiration Date

Signature _____

Name on Credit Card if Different than Above _____

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Web Page: www.friendspaloaltolib.org

Email: info@friendspaloaltolib.org

Monthly Book Sales: Second Weekend

Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Rd.

*****Special Member's Book Sale on October 14*****

See page 7 for schedule

Saturday

Main Room: 11 am to 4 pm

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

Children's (Room K6) & Bargain (Room K7): 10 am to 4 pm

Sunday

All rooms: 1 pm to 4 pm

See www.friendspaloaltolib.org for details

Board of Directors Meeting: Second Wednesday

Cubberley Book Sale Room
4000 Middlefield Road 8:30 to 10:30 am

Book Discussion Group: Second Thursday

Lucie Stern Community Center Fireside Room

1305 Middlefield Road 7:30 to 9 pm

For information, call Crystal 961-1528 or see

www.fopalbookgroup.homestead.com

Great Books: Second Wednesday

Oak Creek Apartments Club House

1600 Sand Hill Road, Palo Alto. 7:30 to 9:30 pm

For information, call Elsie Taboroff at 493-8629

**Library Commission: Fourth Thursday
& Special Schedule**

Council Conference Room, 250 Hamilton Ave. 7 pm

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

to confirm meeting date and time.

September 28	Collections
October 12	Technology
October 26	Capital Expenditures & Staffing
November 16	Final Review of Library Plan

Friends of the Palo Alto Library (FOPAL) Board of Directors: Jeff Levinsky, President; Martha Schmidt, Vice-President; Margarita Quihuis, Secretary; Bob Moss, Treasurer and Bob Otnes, Assistant Treasurer; Marty Paddock, Book Sale Manager. Members: Wendy Akers-Ghose, Betsy Allyn, Althea Andersen, Rudy Batties, Gretchen Emmons, Gerry Masteller, Gloria Reade, Jim Schmidt, Barbara Silberling, Steve Staiger, Ellen Wyman, and Tom Wyman. Library Representatives to the Board: Diane Jennings, Interim Library Director. Foreword Staff: Wendy Akers-Ghose; Webmaster: Jeff Levinsky; Circulation: Post Haste Direct