

FOREWORD

Issue No. 77

Fall 2008



Annual Meeting Friends of the Palo Alto Library

Thursday, October 23, 7:30pm at the Palo Alto Art Center

Guest Speaker: Dr. Jonathan Patrick Herzog
Red State / Blue State

The Mysterious 20th-Century Shift in America's Political Map

A native Nebraskan and son of a library director, Jonathan Patrick Herzog received his Ph.D. in history from Stanford University. He teaches courses in American political and religious history in the history department at Stanford, is a national fellow at the Hoover Institution, and contributes to the Washington Independent, an online magazine of politics. Jonathan has recently completed a book manuscript entitled *The Hammer and the Cross* which examines how and why American leaders employed religion as a weapon in the early Cold War. He lives in Mountain View with his wife, who is also a teacher.

~ Betsy Allyn, President, FOPAL



What's happening lately at the Children's Library?
See page 7.

Nominees for Board of Directors Election at Annual Meeting

Officers: President, Betsy Allyn; Vice President, Martha Schmidt; Secretary, Margaret Quihuis; Treasurer, Enid Pearson

Directors Returning for Two Years: Gretchen Emmons, Gerry Masteller, Enid Pearson, Jim Schmidt, Steve Staiger, Ellen Wyman

New Director: Scottie Zimmerman

From the Treasurer—Enid Pearson

We are in the process of balancing the books for our fiscal year: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. There will be some slight changes as we prepare our books for our tax return due in October, 2008, and for our annual meeting, October 23, 2008.

Book sales from Cubberley earned \$238,294 and with contributions, memberships, and interest on investments, our income was around \$317,000. FOPAL gave grants to Palo Alto Library of \$225,000.

Current assets are \$846,282, and liabilities total \$342,000. Our Fund for the Future increases by \$1,000 per month is now \$45,946 and our Endowment Fund is \$293,000.

At our annual meeting, I will present the final Treasurer's Report for 2007-2008.

Marty Paddock: Book Sale Manager Par Excellence

Marty Paddock became manager of FOPAL's book sales during a time of real crisis. Our book sale site at Terman was scheduled for takeover by the school district, and no one knew what would happen to FOPAL's book sales. After six years of growth we had expanded into five classrooms at Terman. Our monthly book sales had grown to over \$100,000 per year for the first time and were continuing to grow.

Marty's first challenge was to find someplace else to hold our book sales. We looked at privately owned warehouses and talked to real estate agents. We made overtures to take over several artist-occupied studios at Cubberley, and the City quickly decided that FOPAL should have its own quarters. Our modular was moved in, and Marty coordinated the move from Terman to Cubberley without missing a sale; however for the record, our first sale at Cubberley presented some real challenges, including heavy rain, roof leaks and improvised lighting arrangements. However, under Marty's guidance the Friends settled into its new quarters and sales continued grow. As sales grew, she went on to negotiate the rental of two more classrooms which we occupy to this day and which allowed us to have a dedicated children's book room.

Sales had passed the \$200,000 per year mark by the time Marty retired in 2006. Her record as book sale manager was remarkable. At the same time, she was everybody's friend. She always found time for chit-chat, to ask our volunteers how their kids were doing, and to share whatever might be going on in their lives. All of us appreciated her quiet sense of humor and good judgment. It's little wonder that we missed Marty terribly when she retired in 2006.

When you visit Palo Alto's Main Library you will see brass plaques on benches and patio chairs recognizing Marty's contributions as FOPAL's book sale manager. You'll also see a sign by the door of our main book room reading *Marty's Bookroom*.



~ Tom and Ellen Wyman

Introducing Our New Book Sale Manager

After an exhaustive search for a new book sale manager, the Book Room Committee is delighted to announce that Mr. Jerry Stone has agreed to accept the position. He began July 1st and has already made significant contributions to the operation of our monthly book sales. Jerry brings a variety of skills and experience to the job including retail sales and marketing, where he started-up and managed his own Silicon Valley firm. He also has a background in computers and plans to bring some of this knowledge to our operations. A native of Oakland, Jerry is an avid reader and long-time patron of libraries. A big fan of all sports, he still plays recreational ice hockey and as a high school pitcher claims to have struck out former Oakland A's star and future Baseball Hall of Famer Ricky Henderson.



The Book Room Manager performs a key role in FOPAL's fund raising activities. Our monthly sales are not only widely attended community events, but they bring in the majority of our organization's revenues, and are vital to our efforts to help support Palo Alto's public libraries. Jerry's job involves coordinating the work of nearly 150 volunteers who perform the many tasks needed to make the sales a success. This is clearly a challenging job, and everyone involved with the Book Room is very pleased that Jerry has stepped up to take it on.

FOPAL members are invited to come to the Cubberley Book Room and meet Jerry personally. You will be able to see him at our next monthly sale. He's easily recognizable as the tall man with the harried smile being trailed by a Whippet named Trixie.

~ John Burt

Children's Library a Year Later



The remodeled and expanded Children's Library opened its doors on September 29, 2007, sixty-seven years after its first opening in 1940. Customers both new and old express delight the first time they enter the doors. Comments range from, "It rocks!" to, "I love the child-sized furnishings," to, "You must love working here!" With generous funding support for both the remodeling and the furnishings, the Friends of the Palo Alto Library helped make this project possible.

Some of the many positive changes include:

- More space to display books face forward (and they go out like hotcakes) and cabinets and wall space to show our historic collections of dolls, collectibles and art work
- Plenty of computers for looking up titles and for using the Internet and ample seating for study and leisurely reading
- A ground source heat pump that makes the building's climate pleasant in even the most extreme weather
- Self-checkout terminals—kids love to do it themselves
- Enough bathrooms for "can't wait" little ones
- The New Reader's Nook, a cozy place where beginning readers feel comfortable
- The Tree Top Room, where our fine collection of picture books can be perused, and where we host our story times and special programs

Supported by the Friends of the Library, Children's Library has hosted some wonderful programs this year. Highlights include:

- The popular "Paws to Read" monthly program where young readers practice reading aloud to service dogs
- Lively and engaging weekly toddler and preschool story times attended by up to 120 children and their caregivers
- Specials for school aged kids such as "Reverse American Idol" (who's the worst singer in Palo Alto?), the fantastic singing group Kitka, and festive story and crafts programs
- The traditional storytelling festival, bringing out some of the best storytellers in the Bay Area

This summer, the Children's Library is hopping, with more children signed up for our Summer Reading program than ever before.

Families new to Palo Alto pour in to get their first library cards, large numbers attend the Wacky Wednesday programs and story times, and people of all ages enjoy the library and renovated Secret Garden.

We look forward this fall to bringing back the tradition from the 1940's of hosting a doll's tea party and a pirate party. The only difference is that this year's tea party will include all types of dolls, stuffed animals, and action figures. And swashbucklers will include both boys and girls, of course.

One of the best quotes this year came from a young library fan, Moriah, visiting the library on opening day. She wrote,

**"I love how big and colorful the Chirdrens library is
and how many books there are!"**

I think we would all agree.

~ Melinda Wing, Manager Palo Alto Children's Library



Melinda leading a sing-along at grand opening of Children's Library

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Web Page: www.friendspaloaltolib.org

Email: info@friendspaloaltolib.org

Monthly Book Sales: Second Weekend

Cubberley Community Center
4000 Middlefield Road

Saturday

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

(Free tickets to reserve place in line available at 8 am)
Children's Room (K6) & Bargain Room (K7): 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday

All rooms: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

For details, see www.friendspaloaltolib.org

Book Discussion Group: Second Thursday

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

For information, see
www.fopalbookgroup.homestead.com

Great Books: Second Wednesday

Oak Creek Apartments Club House
1600 Sand Hill Road, Palo Alto. 7:30 to 9 p.m.
For information, call Elsie Taboroff at 493-8629

Library Commission: Fourth Thursday

Council Conference Room, 250 Hamilton Ave. 7 p.m.
To confirm date/time, see
www.city.palo-alto.ca.us/clerk/schedule.html

Friends of the Palo Alto Library Membership Form

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

Join/renew

1 Year

2 Years

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$15	\$27
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25	\$45
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10	\$18
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior	\$10	\$18
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter	\$50	\$90
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$100	
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$250	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime	\$500	
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$1000	

Name (Please Print)

Address

City / State / Zip

Phone _____

Email _____

Make checks payable to Friends of the Palo Alto Library

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

Friends of the Palo Alto Library (FOPAL) Board of Directors: Betsy Allyn—President; Martha Schmidt—Vice President; Margarita Quihuis—Secretary; Enid Pearson—Treasurer; John Burt—Assistant Treasurer; Rudy Batties, Gretchen Emmons, Gerry Masteller, Bob Otnes, Jim Schmidt, Barbara Silberling, Carolyn Spitz, Steve Staiger, Ellen and Tom Wyman. Library Director and Representative to the Board—Diane Jennings. Foreword Editor—Scottie Zimmerman. Webmaster and Membership—Jeff Levinsky