

FOREWORD

Quarterly Issue No. 76

Spring 2008



"I would be most content if my children grew up to be the kind of people who think decorating consists mostly of building enough bookshelves."

~ Anna Quindlen



From the President...

Each year FOPAL becomes a more important support organization for our city libraries. And 2008-2009 could become our most productive year so far.

Our volunteers (160-plus) put in countless hours receiving, unpacking, and sorting hundreds of boxes and bags of donated books. (Recently, we received 250 boxes from a single donor!) In addition to books, the volunteers also find CDs, DVDs, videotapes, maps, games, puzzles, posters, and other ephemera among the donations. All these materials are categorized, priced, and shelved for our monthly Friends Book Sale at Cubberley Community Center on the 2nd Saturday of every month.

Why this staggering monthly effort? Of course the FOPAL volunteers love books and the knowledge they pass on. More than that, however, they want to help the Palo Alto Library, the sole beneficiary of all their hard work.

FOPAL has been one of the principle supporters of the New Children's Library. In 2007, book sale profits provided \$167,000 for new book collections and for the program *Silicon Valley Reads* that involves authors and the reading public. Over the next two years, FOPAL has committed \$127,000 so the library can join the new LINK+ program, substantially increasing the availability of books to its Palo Alto patrons.

People in Palo Alto have time and again supported their neighborhood libraries as much as they have supported their schools. And this November, we will be asked to do it again with the Bond issue and the campaign of "Better Libraries for Palo Alto."

~ Betsy Allyn, President,
Friends of the Palo Alto Library

Our Unsung Heros and Heroines

FOPAL's monthly book sales are successful only because of our more than 160 absolutely wonderful, dedicated volunteers. Each is pure gold. They're the reason that our monthly sales are such successes. We couldn't do what we do without them. Most sort incoming donations of books and/or manage a section, such as history, science, etc.



But in addition to all this, which keeps us very busy, there are some volunteers who do all of this and more. And it's the "more" that they do that makes such a difference. So we want to introduce a few of these unsung heroes and heroines to you, and you'll hear about others later.

Carl and Shirley Finfrock have been our "pick-up" team. For 4 or 5 years they have been Johnny-on-the-spot picking up book donations all the way from San Jose to San Mateo and even further. Sometimes they picked up 40 to 50 boxes at a time; sometimes they worked 4 or 5 days a week. The Finfrocks have just declared a well earned time out to be replaced by **Tom and Sarah Clark**. Three cheers for the Finfrocks and Clarks!

Paula Wirth has recently taken on writing our newspaper ads and we are delighted. Paula is a graphics designer and her ads are eye-catching. **Alice Gross** is our Fairy Godmother who makes dozens of phone calls each month, lining up the 27 cashiers, 16 floor assistants, and 10 table arrangers we need for each sale. We certainly could not get along without her! **Suzanne Little** makes our regular supply runs. She maintains our inventory of essential office supplies and also assures that we have the all-important cookies, chips, nuts, and water that keep us going. She is one important person. **Micki Zatz** manages sale day, which keeps her running all day Friday and Saturday; I can't begin to tell you what all she does because she does everything that keeps our sales running smoothly.

Marion Knox is certainly a VIP. She not only maintains her own book section, which is a big one, but she wins everyone's heart by preparing and serving lunch on Friday before sale day. That Friday is a busy time, and Marion arrives with a home-cooked, mouth-watering three-course luncheon that 30 or 40 of us thoroughly enjoy!

The Bargain Room is currently without a manager, but **Jim Dean** and **Bill Steele** are there several days each week and hold the place together beautifully. Then **Norma Burchard** manages our after-sale offering of free remainder books that Friends donates to the numerous non-profits that can use our books in their programs.

As some might say, "It takes a village," or at least a good many unsung and dedicated volunteers to make each sale a success. A big hurrah for all these good people!

~ *Ellen Wyman, Volunteer Coordinator*

LINK+

and the Palo Alto Library

Link+ is a consortium of 30 public libraries and public and private academic libraries in California and Nevada. The consortium's mission is to share collections using technology in lieu of traditional interlibrary loan. As of March 31, 2005, the collections of the participating libraries exceeded 4 million titles and 13 million items.

How does Link+ work?

A patron in a participating library searches for an item. If the item has been checked out, or the



local library doesn't own it, the patron receives a screen prompt: "Do you want to try Link+?" Answer "yes," and the original search is sent over the Internet to the Link+ union catalog database—a merged catalog of all the participating libraries. The patron finds the participating libraries that own the desired item and learns which of those libraries has it currently available. When the patron initiates checkout, the library with the available copy gets a "picking slip." A page takes the slip to the shelf, picks the item, and takes it to be prepared for shipment to the requesting library and patron.

The technology involved in Link+ has two components:

- An integrated library system in each participating library
- A central server which contains the combined catalogs of the participating libraries and a software product from Innovative Interfaces Inc. (Emeryville, CA) called INNReach.

Originally designed to interface only with Innovative's local library system product, INNReach now interfaces with non-Innovative local library systems, such as DYNIX, the system Palo Alto uses. Thus, the technology issues between a non-Innovative local library system and INNReach have been solved.

In a recent survey Palo Alto citizens ranked enhancing the library collection among the five most important improvements. Link+ provides access to 13 million items, and growing, for approximately \$50,000 annually. FOPAL has agreed to share in the costs for a two-year pilot project, expected to be operational early in 2009.

To see Link+ in action, visit the public library in Mountain View, Santa Clara, or San Jose.

~ Jim Schmidt, FOPAL board member and a founder of Link+,
Professor, School of Library and Information Science, San Jose State University

New Titles in the Library—Adult Non-Fiction

The Great Swim, by Gavin Mortimer

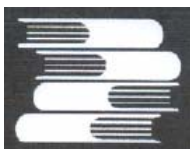
The quest of four intrepid women who, in the summer of 1926, attempted to become the first female to swim the turbulent English Channel.

The Cure Within: A History of Mind-body Medicine, by Anne Harrington

The author, who has spent her scholarly career exploring mind-body relationships, enlightens readers through an authoritative historical account of healers' efforts through the ages to use the mind to cure the body.

Physics of the Impossible: A Scientific Exploration into the World of Phasers, Force Fields, Teleportation, and Time Travel, by Michio Kaku

In this latest effort to popularize the sciences, City University of New York professor ponders topics that many people regard as impossible, ranging from psychokinesis and telepathy to time travel and teleportation.



Friends of the Library Honor Gene Bulf

At their annual meeting in October, Friends of the Palo Alto Library honored Gene Bulf for his more than 50 years of active support of Palo Alto libraries. He served on the FOPAL board of directors for 34 years and has spoken out publicly so often on library issues that his name is nearly synonymous with that of Friends itself.

In the 1970s and 80s, when Friends was a much smaller and less active organization, Gene Bulf almost single-handedly held the organization together. Over the years, he represented FOPAL numerous times before the Palo Alto City Council and was the City's first representative to the South Bay Cooperative Library System,

One fond memory that Gene and Mary Bulf have is of their daughter's wedding in the Secret Garden of the Children's Library in August, 1979. Gene recalls another time when he got a frantic call during dinner and hurried over to the Children's Library arriving just in time to "save the arches." The gardeners were preparing to cut down the hedging that arched over the pathways of the Secret Garden, giving it that special aura of mystery and seclusion. (During the recent reconstruction and expansion of the Children's Library, one arch had to be removed, but it is being restored.)

Gene is unique in having *two* life memberships to FOPAL—one of which he paid for, and the other Friends awarded to him. At the recent annual meeting, it was resolved, "that in lieu of honoring Gene with a *third* life membership, Friends of the Palo Alto Library hereby awards Gene Bulf this certificate and the honorary title of FOPAL STALWART EXTRAORDINAIRE."



New Titles in the Library—Adult Fiction

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| <i>Olive Kitteridge: A Novel in Stories</i> , by Elizabeth Stout | The abrasive, vulnerable title character sometimes stands center stage, sometimes plays a supporting role in these 13 sharply observed dramas of small-town life. |
| <i>The Eye of Jade: A Novel</i> , by Diane Wei Liang | A female detective in Beijing follows clues that take her back to the Cultural Revolution. |
| <i>People of the Book</i> , by Geraldine Brooks | When Australian rare-books author Hanna Heath travels to Sarajevo to restore the legendary Sarajevo Haggadah, she gets a lot more than she bargained for. |

New Titles in the Library—Teen Fiction

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>Pandora Gets Jealous</i> , by Carolyn Hennesy. | Thirteen-year-old Pandy is hauled before Zeus and given six months to gather all of the evils that were released when the box she brought to school as her annual project was accidentally opened. |
| <i>Keeping Score</i> , by Linda Sue Park | Nine-year old Maggie lives in a house divided—her father is a Yankees fan, but she, her mother, and her brother all live and die on the fortunes of the Dodgers (it's 1951) |
| <i>The Boy Who Dared</i> , by Susan Campbell Bartoletti | A novel closely based on the true story of Helmuth Hübener, a German teen who stood up to the Nazis and paid with his life. |

Palo Alto's Treasures

by **Steve Staiger, Historian** (steve.staiger@cityofpaloalto.org)

Interested in Palo Alto history? The Guy Miller Archives is one of Palo Alto's treasures. Housed in the Main Library, the archives contain more than 13,000 photographs, hundreds of maps, and numerous files of newspaper clippings, brochures, advertising fliers, and other documents relating to Palo Alto's history.

Photographs are the single most valuable collection in the archives. The images, numbering over 12,000, cover more than 120 years of Palo Alto history, from street scenes of early Mayfield to photos of the ceremony renaming the Civic Center plaza earlier this year. We are digitalizing the images and making them available at www.pahistory.org. More than 2000 images are currently available for online viewing. **FOPAL is helping to fund the cost of processing additional photographs.**

There are more than 30,000 obituaries in the archives, some as early as the 1880s. You can search the obit index from the Library's website or from the Palo Alto Historical Association's website www.pahistory.org. We receive requests for obits from former Palo Altans and their descendants. Several have contacted us from Sweden, England, and Chile.

Real estate agents come to us seeking histories on properties offered for sale and long-time residents relive events that took place years ago. Some search out photographs to decorate their walls at home or at the office. People are surprised to learn that our most common inquiries include Joe Eichler and his homes, Jerry Garcia and the Grateful Dead, and where famous people such as JFK and John Steinbeck resided when they lived in Palo Alto.

The Palo Alto Historical Association contracts with the City to maintain the collection and assists interested persons in accessing the material. As the Historian, I am available on Tuesday evenings and Thursday afternoons at the History Desk in the Main Library to help answer your questions.

The Ultimate Book Donation

FOPAL was pleased to learn late last year that we could have the extensive library of Stanford Professor Ronald Hilton, who died over a year ago at 95. It was a remarkably eclectic assortment reflecting his breadth of interests that included art, political science, and history, with a focus on Hispanic-American and Russian relations. His four-column obit in the New York Times observed, "Ronald Hilton [was] an influential scholar on Latin America who played a role in uncovering secret preparations for Cuban exiles' invasion at the Bay of Pigs." Professor Hilton founded the World Association of International Studies in 1968.

The challenge facing those of us called upon to pick up his collection was that Professor Hilton's house was built down the side of Stanford's San Juan Hill. The book collection was in floor-to-ceiling book cases in virtually every room, with most books on the lower levels of his seven-level house. For a total of some six days, nine FOPAL volunteers labored un-shelving books, packing boxes, and lugging box after box up what seemed to be countless stairs to the street level. There were also items that had to be carried up individually—over-sized books, framed pictures, Russian icons, and boxes of videotapes. What a workout, and it was with a gasp of relief that the last of the 568 boxes were stowed away in waiting vans and station wagons. Our volunteers deserve a world of credit for organizing this major undertaking against which all future FOPAL book pick-ups will be compared.

When she wasn't working with her husband on his projects, Professor Hilton's wife Mary Bowie Hilton collected dolls. She herself had an extensive collection of books on dolls and doll-related subjects; it's the best such collection we've ever seen. We anticipate these will be sold at a future monthly Friends book sale. Stay tuned for more information.

We extend our sincere thanks to Professor Hilton's daughter, Mary Huyck, for the donation of her father's collection which sparked our Friend's book sales over several months.

~Tom Wyman



Sharp-Eyed Book Sorters Find Another Treasure!

Those who sort thousands of books each month for our book sales did it again. The Palo Alto Historical Association and the Palo Alto Woman's Club were delighted when a sharp-eyed sorter spotted a modest, well-used book with a black cardboard cover titled *Cookery – Choice Recipes Collected by The Palo Alto Woman's Club*, published in 1903.

Town notables who contributed recipes included Mrs. J. F. Parkinson (whose husband was mayor 1906-08), Julia R. Gilbert (Palo Alto's first librarian), and Mrs. C. D. Marx (whose husband, a civil engineering professor at Stanford University, sparked the founding of our municipal utilities system). We do not know who owned this little book, but it was actively used with well-thumbed and sometimes spattered pages and several handwritten recipes on the blank pages—one titled "Sour Milk Ginger Snaps (Mrs. Marx)."

Mrs. C. H. Gilbert's recipe for scrambled oysters begins, "One quart of oysters." Now that's a bunch of oysters! Mrs. Blackburn offers a recipe for pickled sheep's tongues beginning, "Boil until tender six sheep's tongues. Plunge into cold water and skin." The recipe closes with the suggestion that the tongues be served with "gravy to which has been added one-third cup of sherry or claret."

Publication costs of the cookbook were offset by 15 local businesses who bought ads. The ad for what later became "Sticky Wilson's" at High and University is simply titled "Candy Making." Earle & Co. represented itself as "The Oldest and Most Reliable Grocery House in Town." These ads themselves with their quaint phrasing make fascinating reading.

This 109-page book plus its ads is a gem—a rare glimpse of culinary treats as prepared and served by Palo Alto women 105 years ago. Thanks to those who do our book sorting, we now know something more of the history of Palo Alto. Palo Alto historian Steve Staiger will add this cookbook to other archival treasures where it can be enjoyed by all.

Library News from Diane Jennings, Library Director



As we approach the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Main and Mitchell Park libraries, the City Council will discuss placing a bond on an upcoming ballot that would provide the needed funding to improve our Library's buildings. It was in 1956 when the City's voters approved a library bond to build a new Main Library and a branch library at Mitchell Park. The two libraries were built concurrently and opened in July 1958.

As was the case fifty years ago, the recommended improvements for our Library are a result of several years of analysis and discussion in the community. These recommendations, developed by the Library Advisory Commission, include improving all five branches of the library system. Council has made it a priority to upgrade our libraries and confirmed all five branches will remain open.

The expansion and renovation of the Children's Library, funded by a combination of private donations, city capital dollars, and federal grants, was the first step towards completing this plan. The City has dedicated infrastructure reserve funds to undertake a major renovation of the College Terrace Library next year. Now funding must be found to complete the planned improvements to Mitchell Park, Main, and Downtown libraries.

Significant facility upgrades are needed to support current and future service needs. Mitchell Park Library is too small to serve properly the 1000+ daily visitors. The shelving capacities at both Main and Mitchell Park were exceeded years ago, making it impossible to expand the collections at our two major libraries. Our branches do not have the program and small group study rooms that are essential spaces in today's libraries. We are stretched in our outdated facilities to provide adequate support for the increasing use of technology. Obsolete and inefficient lighting, heating, and cooling systems reduce the comfort for library users.

Conceptual designs have been developed to address these needs. The Council has determined that a new combination Mitchell Park Library and Community Center should replace the two existing buildings. A small expansion of Main Library, with a total renovation of that historically significant branch is planned. Downtown Library would be reconfigured to improve the layout of the existing space and upgrade its lighting and major building systems.

Details about these proposals, including architectural sketches and floor plans, as well as background planning documents, are available on the City's website: www.cityofpaloalto.org. Look for the link labeled "Library Projects." Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the needs of our Library and the plans to address them.

diane.jennings@cityofpaloalto.org



Book Sale Information

2 Days, 3 Rooms, Over 50,000 Books!

2008 Sale Dates

June 14 and 15
July 12 and 13
August 9 and 10
September 13 and 14
October 11 and 12
November 8 and 9
December 13 and 14

Saturday Sale Hours

Children's Room and Bargain Room
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Main Sales Room
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Sale Hours

All Rooms
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Donate Books

(Don't Throw Them Away)

We find new readers for your old books and other items, raising \$100,000s for the Palo Alto Library.

Your Donations Are Tax Deductible

We Accept

Books (paperbacks & hardcovers),
Movies (DVDs and videos), Software, Music (CDs, cassettes, records, sheet music), Games, Puzzles, Other (artwork, posters, pamphlets, collectibles, magazines)

Drop-Off Times

Tuesday-Saturday
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

You can also drop off up to one bag or box (per day) at any Palo Alto Library

Information and Pickups

(650) 213-8755

Book Donations Accepted at Main Sales Room

Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road (North Entrance)

Friends of the Palo Alto Library Membership Form

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

	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>2 Years</u>
<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 (No dues reminder!)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$1000	

Name(s)

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Email (used only for Friend's email notices). Please print.

Make checks payable to Friends of the Palo Alto Library

Visa or Master Card

Card Number & Expiration Date

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

Please return form to:

Friends of the Palo Alto Library
P.O. Box 41
Palo Alto, CA 94302

Signature

Name on Credit Card if Different From Signature Above

FRIENDS OF THE PALO ALTO LIBRARY
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Palo Alto, CA 94302-0041

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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.

See www.friendspaloaltolib.org for details.

Board of Directors Meeting

Second Wednesday

Cubberley Book Sale Room
4000 Middlefield Road 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Book Discussion Group:

Second Thursday

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

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 p.m.

For information, call Elsie Taboroff at 493-8629

Library Commission: Fourth Thursday

Council Conference Room, 250 Hamilton Ave. 7 p.m.

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

to confirm meeting date and time

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, Steve Staiger, Ellen and Tom Wyman. Library Director and Representative to the Board—Diane Jennings. Foreword Editor—Scottie Zimmerman. Webmaster and Membership—Jeff Levinsky