



FOREWORD

Issue No. 81

Winter 2010

FOPAL Expands Book Sale Space

A major shift in FOPAL book sale operations began in December when we signed an agreement with the City of Palo Alto to lease a modular building on the Cubberley Campus previously used by the Albert L. Schultz Jewish Community Center. Acquisition of this building (located on the southern edge of the campus, just beyond the large parking lot) increases by 40% the space available for book sales and related operations.

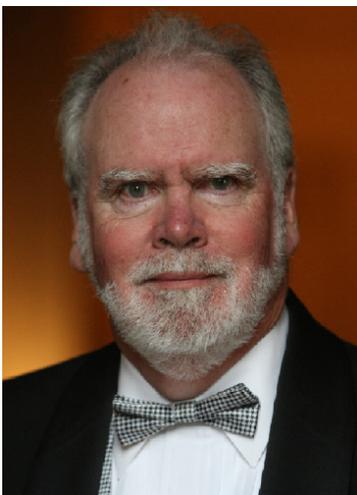
In recent years, as our monthly sales have grown, FOPAL has faced the challenge of what to do with large book donations we receive. Currently we lease off-site storage space and spend time and energy hauling books around Palo Alto to and from these storage areas. We face the challenge of what to do with large book donations that we receive during the month—and especially those we receive just before our monthly sales. With additional space, we can avoid shifting books into and out of off-site storage.

Of course, as book donations have increased, our sales areas and book sorting room have also become more crowded. It is agreed that the Children's Room will move from the K-wing into the new building in February or March. This gives our young customers more space to browse and select books—something they've needed for years. The Bargain Room then expands into the unoccupied Children's Room, providing more space for bargain hunters. Plans for using the rest of the space are being finalized by book sale manager Jerry Stone with input from volunteers. We intend to complete all changes by spring and expect our customers to enjoy more relaxed shopping in expanded quarters.

~ Dick Grote, Section Manager: Native Americans, California, and The West



Jim Schmidt Takes Over as FOPAL President



Jim Schmidt, recently retired professor of library and information science at San Jose State University, took over the presidency of FOPAL from Betsy Allyn on January 1, 2010. Jim has been a FOPAL Board member since 2004. Last year he received the Beta Phi Mu citation from the American Library Association "For his commitment to scholarship, the university, the library world, and the American Library Association as well as for advancing knowledge and promoting the free exchange of ideas."

Last Spring, Jim was instrumental in the FOPAL effort to encourage Palo Alto libraries to install the Link + system, thus enabling Palo Altans to access the collections of over 50 public and academic libraries in California and Nevada.

Over the years, Jim has worked as a librarian in public and academic libraries in Michigan, Texas, Ohio, New York, Rhode Island, and California. He has served as library director at the State University of New York, Albany and Brown University. He holds a master's degree from Columbia University in New York and a doctorate from the School of Library and Information Studies at Florida State University.

Following his election, Betsy Allyn, the out-going two-term FOPAL president, commented, "We are indeed fortunate to have Jim with his broad library experience heading up our organization."

Friends of Scouting

Among the books that we accumulate over time in the book room are those involving scouting—Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, and even the now defunct Air Scouts. We get all manner of books and manuals used by the scouts themselves as well as those written for scoutmasters and scouting administrators.



Last July we sold about half of our inventory of perhaps three boxes and then decided to call the local Boy Scout office at the Palo Alto Community Center. We were encouraged to bring our remaining books to the Scout office. Some of the books dated back into the 1930s and 40s. One book was dated 1909!



Our collection was quickly accepted with appreciation. The Boy Scouts of America are celebrating their 100th anniversary during 2010, and we were told that many of the books we brought them will be on display and will offer an overview of the history of Scouting. In Palo Alto you can see a scouting display and a history of the Stanford Area Council (which has become part of the Pacific Skyline Council) at the Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road.

This is simply another case of finding new homes for old books. It's always a pleasure when we can find new, appreciative owners who are delighted with our old books, whatever the topic, and thereby save them from going to the paper recyclers.

~ Tom Wyman, FOPAL Vice President

If I have not read a book before, it is, for all intents and purposes, new to me whether it was printed yesterday or three hundred years ago.

~ William Hazlitt

Clip art from Boy Scouts of America Web site.

Palo Alto Library

Schedule of Public Programs

There's a busy year ahead for Palo Alto City Library (PACL) as we close the Downtown Library for renovation, move Mitchell Park Library and Technical Services staff to a temporary location on the Cubberley Campus, begin construction of a new Mitchell Park Library, and reopen College Terrace Library. To learn about these exciting bond-funded projects, visit the Library Facility Project website. You can find a link to the site on the Library's home page under "Featured Links."



Speaking of Mitchell Park Library, I urge you to stop by to meet our newest Supervising Librarian and the Branch Manager, RuthAnn Garcia. RuthAnn recently relocated from Southern California, where she was a children's librarian. She says: "I'm really enjoying my time at the Mitchell Park Library. The staff is fantastic. And I am looking forward to the new Mitchell Park Library. It's going to be incredible!"

During economic downturns, libraries everywhere see a corresponding increase in business, and Palo Alto libraries are no exception. Last fiscal year our circulation reached 1,633,955.

Program attendance is also up: recently 44 people attended a Baby Storytime program at Mitchell Park. The babies might be small, but the numbers are huge! It's during times like this that we particularly appreciate FOPAL support. Where would we be without funding for important programs like Silicon Valley Reads 2010? This year's SVR book selection is Michael Pollan's *In Defense of Food: an Eater's Manifesto*. PACL also plans to present three related programs, free thanks to FOPAL support:

- "The Botany of Desire," a PBS documentary exploring the human relationship with the plant world. Saturday, February 13, 3 p.m. at the Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell Rd.
- "Goldielocks and the Three Teddybears," a P & T Puppet Theatre program for children and families that finds the three bears expounding on good food and making good food choices. Saturday, February 20, 3 p.m., Mitchell Park Community Center, 3800 Middlefield Rd.
- "Effective Gardening," a program by John Jeavons, known internationally as the leading researcher and method developer for the small-scale, sustainable agricultural method known as Grow Biotensive mini-farming. Friday, March 12, 7 p.m., Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell Rd.



Stay tuned; there's always something NEW at the Library.

~ Cornelia van Aken, Assistant Director

Science, Computers, Law, and Business

When we have space, the Foreword intends to continue calling attention to subject-matter sections and the dedicated people who organize and maintain them.

For Those With a Technical Turn of Mind

As manager of the **Science and Technology** section, Rob Black makes an important contribution to the success of FOPAL's monthly book sales. His is one of the most popular book sections and encompasses a broad range of topics. When the doors open on sale day, it is amazing how many buyers make a bee-line for his section and leave with their carefully selected 12-book armload, only to return moments later for another 12 books. In preparing for sales, Rob, displays all the "popular science" books on the adjacent table and in a separate section just around the corner from his heavier stuff. Many of these books, which he sometimes calls "non-technical technical books," are new or near-new. They attract a crowd on sale day and sell very well.

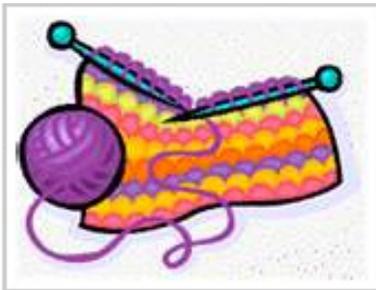


Those who want the really heavy technical stuff have a broad assortment from which to choose. Rob has the knowledge to price and shelve thousands of books in preparing for each sale. Math, physics, and chemistry are standard fare. Additional topics include geology, paleontology, strength of materials, applied dynamics, and meteorology. Technical texts and reference books cover the traditional engineering fields of electrical, civil, mechanical, chemical, aeronautical, petroleum, and hydraulics. The variety ranges from aerodynamics to zoology and from earth sciences to astrophysics.

Boxes of technical books arrive between sales as people downsize and donate their books and as firms streamline their technical libraries. Consequently, buyers frequently find on FOPAL shelves many older and hard-to-find classic volumes on technical topics. It's a regular treasure hunt for many sale-day buyers, and Rob's aim is to offer our buyers a better deal than can be found anywhere else.

~ Rob Black, Section Manager & Chinchilla Fancier

It's All About Computers



The Computer section in the book room houses an ever changing assortment of computer-related books, periodicals, references, conference proceedings, specifications, journals, and software. Boxes of stuff are donated each month which Section Manager Dee Dee Ujihara sorts through, prices, and shelves. On sale day her section is one of those "must see" collections for our techies. Delighted customers leave with all manner of computer related specials.

Technical levels in the computer section range from "**<you name it> for Dummies,**" through programming, to computer science research materials.

Dee Dee always sorts out vintage materials that belong on her special shelf for collectors and nostalgia buyers. The amazing thing is that computer books and papers don't have to be hundreds of years old to attract rare book buyers and archivists. Some computer items a mere 30 years old can be hot commodities.

Of course the computer section benefits tremendously from being in Silicon Valley. Donations have been made by local corporations including HP Research Labs, by Stanford staff, and even by students. Buyers line up at each sale to scan what's available, and books move out the door at a rapid rate. Dee Dee is delighted that her section is so popular and says it's rare when she does not turn over half of her inventory each month.

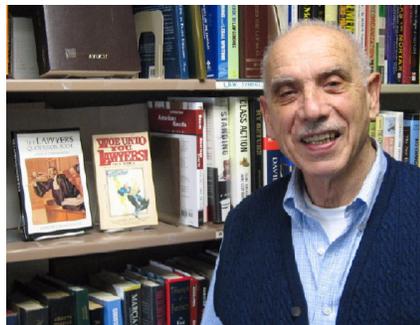
FOPAL maintains a close relationship with the Computer History Museum in Mountain View which often donates surplus materials to us for our book sales. In return, when we receive material that might be appropriate for the Museum collection, we gladly donate these items to them.

~ Dee Dee Ujihara, Section Manager & Knitter

Law Books for Everyone

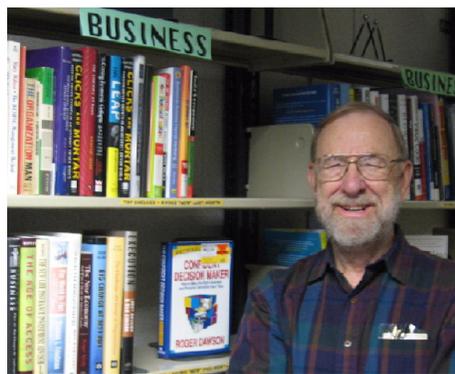
The section on law is not limited to books of interest only to lawyers. It has books on the theory of law, practical guides for non-lawyers when the law intercedes in our lives (e.g., estate planning, trusts, divorces, and business formations), cases showing the evolution of law from the creation of the judicial branch of government to the present day, biographies of famous Supreme Court Justices, failures of the legal system, the whimsical side of the law and lawyers, and valuable guides to prepare for law school and take the Bar exam. The section includes the following books:

- ❑ Do-it-yourself books including these subjects:
 - Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning
 - Child Custody, Divorce, Legal Separation
 - Landlord/Tenant requirements
 - Immigration
 - Bankruptcy
 - Guardianships
 - Legal forms for personal use
 - Forming corporations
 - Other useful legal areas
- ❑ Famous and Infamous trials from the earliest Supreme Court cases to the present.
- ❑ Writings and biographies of famous Justices and legal scholars.
- ❑ Books on the politics of Supreme Court confirmation hearings and on the internecine ideology struggles
- ❑ Information on the required skills to get into law schools, the LSAT and bar examination, summaries of tort law, contract law, criminal law, equity, procedure, corporations, and other legal subjects.
- ❑ The philosophy of law and its common law foundation.
- ❑ Scholarly writings on libel law, privacy rights, abortion, mass media law, etc.
- ❑ Books covering the O.J. Simpson trial from different perspectives



~ Peter Giamalis, Law Section Manager & Spouse of Rose Giamalis, Cooking Section

Business & Economics



Occupying six cases along the west wall of the main FOPAL salesroom is the Business & Economics section. About 1000 books are displayed for sale in several sub-sections:

- Books on management and business organization advise managers how to run a company and lead the troops. They include both theoretical works as well as practical how-to guides and “how I did it” stories.
- Company histories include official commemorative volumes replete with photos, as well as independent narratives of muckraking reportage, some of which read like page-turner mysteries. A group of Silicon Valley tales tells the success stories of people who are household names in Palo Alto.
- There is a shelf devoted to jobs and careers, full of advice on résumés and interviews, how to choose a career, or select a biz school. Some are slanted especially toward women.
- A large section deals with investing and personal finance, including where and when (and how) to retire, plan your estate, minimize taxes, and select stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. We have lots of books by Suzie Orman and the Motley Fools, as well as classics by Peter Lynch and Benjamin Graham.
- Texts and treatises on economics (macro- and micro-), capitalism, accounting and finance are also offered. Business classics range from Adam Smith and Karl Marx through Galbraith, Deming, Drucker, and Peters.
- A section on entrepreneurship can help you start a small business, a home business, even an e-business.
- Advertising and PR are included on the shelf with books on selling and marketing.

After three months, to make room for incoming stock, unsold books are sent to the \$1 sale, to the Bargain Room, or—in the case of exceptional books—to the Downtown Library sale area. Books older than 10 years may be culled after one month.

~ Bob Schwaar, Business Section Manager & Spouse of Georgia Schwaar, Foreign Language Section

Nothing but Praise

FOPAL's book room volunteers are a remarkable lot. Each month this group of some 170 individuals prepares for and runs a two-day book sale that typically grosses on the order of \$18,000 to \$20,000. An outsider, on seeing the monthly disarray in the bookroom on the Thursday and Friday before a sale, would honestly think that the sale can never happen. The aisles are crowded with boxes of books that need to be priced and shelved, tables of books that must be arranged, piles of empty boxes that must be stashed away out of sight. The aisles need to be cleared and vacuumed. It is chaotic. And yet, Saturday morning it's almost serene as volunteers wait to open book room doors to hoards of eager customers. One could never imagine what things looked like a day or two earlier.



What do our hard working, dedicated volunteers do? In short, they do everything. The task list includes those who pick up dozens of boxes of books from contributors in Palo Alto and adjacent communities, book section managers, room managers, book sorters, computer specialists who price books, cashiers, sale day monitors and let us not forget our high school students who cheerfully perform a myriad of jobs while earning volunteer credits for graduation. It's all about picking up books, receiving books as contributors bring them to our door, sorting, pricing, and shelving books. Then on sale days, the routine shifts from preparation to helping customers find what they want and helping them move through the purchasing process as expeditiously as possible.



The amazing thing is how such a diverse endeavor operates so smoothly with so little oversight.

Perhaps there is a lesson here for management specialists and business school gurus who advocate strict lines of authority and clearly defined business plans. We have heard our book section managers speak of themselves as independent entrepreneurs, saying, "Each of us runs our own book store, and we do our level best to maximize sales." Forget the traditional job descriptions, org charts and pay grades; the object is to get the job done!

Why do our volunteers volunteer? There are a wide variety of reasons. Some like the challenge of making it all work and the satisfaction of knowing that it's all done for a worthy purpose—to help our libraries. Most volunteers are book-lovers who delight in handling a wide range of books on every topic imaginable. For them, it's an ongoing learning experience and an opportunity to buy an occasional book for their own libraries. Perhaps an underlying reason for volunteering in the FOPAL book room is the sense of satisfaction that comes with knowing everyone has a responsibility as a team member in helping to make the whole operation come together and pay off. Finally, there is the fun and sense of shared purpose, the Friday-before-sale-day luncheons, the occasional volunteer party, and the simple pleasure of meeting others with shared interests.



Suffice to say, FOPAL has nothing but praise for its cadre of dedicated book room volunteers! Perhaps someone more talented than this writer should compose an "Ode to FOPAL Volunteers."

And PS: If this all sounds interesting and you're not now a FOPAL book room volunteer, you might consider becoming one! Call 325 9483.

PAST Saves the Open-Beam Mission Style of the College Terrace Library

Our community has loved the College Terrace Library for over 80 years. The warmth and overall appeal of the Charles Sumner mission-style architecture simply pleases the public. So when the City started planning to remodel the library, it faced a challenge. Classified as a historic structure, the library features a reading room with handsome open-beam ceiling and iron tie rods, a Sumner architectural hallmark.



Palo Alto Stanford Heritage (PAST) was intent on keeping this open beam expanse free of modern architectural add-ons that would detract from its overall architectural impact. Grace Hinton, PAST President, explained what happened next:

- As the project progressed, the architect included two large steel beams that crossed the reading room at the same level as the graceful wrought iron ties, a solution that would block the clear view through the arched windows at either end. This view, PAST believes, is one of the key defining features of the library.
- PAST hired its own structural engineer to peer-review the structural drawings, and met in the summer with the KPA Group (the City's project architect) to discuss options. Not only did we get the beams removed from the reading room—they'll be installed out of sight instead—the structural solutions also allow for new insulation, electrical upgrades, and fire sprinklers to be hidden above the ceiling.

PAST has been working with KPA Group engineers since early 2007, and it's evident that this effort has paid off. The organization merits an enthusiastic round of applause for their work. Library lovers and architectural buffs owe a sincere vote of thanks to PAST for its dedication in assuring that the College Terrace Library retains its historical integrity and attractiveness.



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Web Page: www.friendspaloaltolib.org

Email: info@friendspaloaltolib.org

Book Sales: Second Weekend Every Month

Cubberley Community Center
4000 Middlefield Road

Saturday Hours

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 Hours

All rooms: 11 a.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	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>2 Years</u>
<u>Individual</u>	\$15	\$27
<u>Family</u>	\$25	\$45
<u>Student</u>	\$10	\$18
<u>Senior</u>	\$10	\$18
<u>Supporter</u>	\$50	\$90
<u>Sponsor</u>	\$100	
<u>Patron</u>	\$250	
<u>Lifetime</u>	\$500	

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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

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