



# FOREWORD

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Palo Alto Library

Summer 2012

## FOPAL Celebrates 75 years of partnership with the Palo Alto Library

Background—This year FOPAL is celebrating 75 years of partnership with the Palo Alto Library. Born during the Depression, FOPAL has grown to a robust organization with hundreds of volunteers and monthly book sales and other activities that generate about a quarter million dollars annually for the Palo Alto Library. One of the current FOPAL board members is Steve Staiger, a retired reference librarian for the City, and the Historian for the Palo Alto Historical Association. We asked Steve (pictured below) to share his perspective on how Palo Alto, its Library, and FOPAL have grown and changed over the past 75 years.



*Tell us about Palo Alto during the Depression years*

Palo Alto was fortunate not to suffer a severe economic hardship during the Depression. The city's main "industry" then was education, and Stanford University, the public school system and several private schools were the major contributors to the local

**\$2 Coupon for any purchase of \$5 or more at a FOPAL book sale. One per customer, please**

economy. Belts were tightened, pay raises were eliminated or reduced, but the doors stayed open. Faculty and staff had money to support local merchants. At the beginning of the 1930's Palo Alto's population was around 14,000. By the end of the decade it had grown to over 17,000.

*What were the origins of FOPAL?*

The records we have indicate that a group of Palo Alto residents began meeting in 1937 to set up a Friends group for the city Library. The next year, in 1938, the group officially founded the Friends of the Palo Alto Library, at the time, one of the first Friends groups in the state. The purpose of the Friends was to support library functions, such as programs and collections that were not being funded adequately through city budgets. The dominant source of revenue for Friends groups, then as today, was through sales of donated books. Although

*continued on page 2*

## FOPAL and Palo Alto Library News

**Want to become a FOPAL Volunteer? Get the beat on page 5**

FOPAL's upcoming book sales are August 11th and 12th and September 8th and 9th. Check pages 3 and 4 for a look of the book offerings in several

of the more than 50 book sections you'll find at the sales.

FOPAL sells many of its high-value books on Amazon, at competitive prices. You can find a listing of the books at [hppt://www.amazon.com/shops/grandmabetsybooks.com](http://www.amazon.com/shops/grandmabetsybooks.com).

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## Interview with Steve Staiger, *continued from page 1*

we don't have official records of early FOPAL activities, we believe the group was holding book sales before the end of the 1930's. To give you feel for the group back then, a 1939 FOPAL event featured the Stanford drama class performing Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*.

*What were the next big milestones for the city, the Library and FOPAL?*

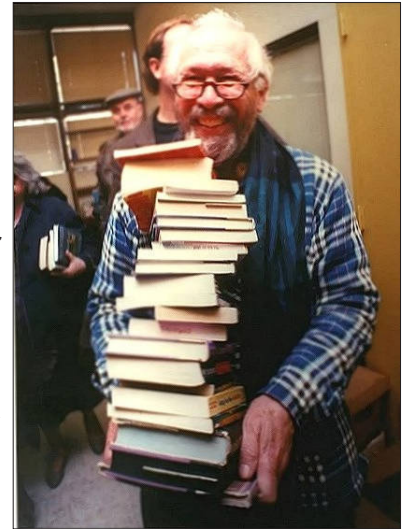
The period after the war was a boom time for Palo Alto, and its Library grew along with it. Years of economic depression plus 4 years of restricted access to building materials during the War had limited the housing inventory in PA. Adding to this pent-up demand were the thousands of new residents who were moving to Palo Alto from other parts of the country to fill the new jobs in the burgeoning electronics industry. To serve this growing population, large areas of south Palo Alto were developed as residential communities. Along with that, the city opened two new libraries in 1958--Main and the Mitchell Park branch--to augment the three then-existing facilities, the old Carnegie Public Library (pictured, built in 1904), and the Children's and College Terrace branches.



Beginning in the late 1940's, and with the encouragement of community leaders and a group of library visionaries, FOPAL became an active, regular Library resource, contributing both volunteers and financial support. Monthly book sales became a regular event, held first in the basement of the old Carnegie Public Library, and later near the old Terman Library branch (photo at right is from a Terman Library monthly book sale, 1976), and since 2002, at the Cubberley campus.

*How have FOPAL's activities translated into benefits to the Library?*

By 1980, contributions from FOPAL to the Library were supporting a variety of popular programs and library resources--purchase of the first personal computer in 1983, the first VCR and CDROM work stations, and support for many popular library programs, such as the Summer Reading Program, Under the Umbrella Storytelling in Parks, Starlight Specials, Toddler and Preschool Story Times, and the Youth Library Use Pilot Program. FOPAL has contributed about 2.5 million dollars to the Library over the past ten years for a variety of projects and grants, including contributions to recent Library expansion and remodeling.



*What changes have you seen in the FOPAL operations in the last ten years?*

One of the biggest changes is a shift toward selling high-value books online. FOPAL started its online book sales in 2005, somewhat cautiously, but today it accounts for about 20% of total revenue. FOPAL's Better Books Bonanza, held every 3-4 months at the Cubberley site, has been another successful innovation, offering high value books selected to appeal to collectors and rare-book buyers.

*Any final thoughts?*

Only to remember and recognize the enthusiastic volunteers, past and present, who contributed to FOPAL and our Library over the last 75 years.

*-Peter Dehlinger*

## Book Sale Sections

### Politics and Government:

We offer more than 250 books (hard cover and trade paperback) each month. The books are categorized by “interest” topics, such as Liberal Views, Conservative Views, Political Theory, and Politics and the Press. The section this month features U.S. Presidents, 1960 to the present, and is an exceptional collection of works by and about our modern Presidents.

~Suzanne Little, Section Manager



**Nature, Animals:** If you've never read a book of John McPhee essays, you're in for a treat, and this month three of his amusing and vastly informative books are on the floor for sale. Browse book categories in virtually every natural science—geology, ocean-

ography, weather, natural history, agronomy, fungi, reptiles, mammals... you name it, among the more than 500 books we show each month. There's a large selection of books on bird watching, beautiful bird identification books, collections about hiking, climbing and camping in US and Bay Area., and dozens of pet books, from pet behavior to their care and feeding to humorous pet stories.

~Irina Cross, Section Manager

**Business:** Check out this section for books covering every aspect of business, finance, and investing. Start with a large collection of books about the social and political aspects of business and the national and global economy, by noted authors such as Thomas Friedman, Paul Krugman, Malcolm Gladwell, and Ariana Huffington. Then there's a large collection of books on business history and biographies. Workplace skills is another major category, with books that offer advice on preparing resumes, job searching, interviewing and thriving in the workplace. For business managers,

there is a large collection of books on management skills, business strategies, marketing and advertising. We also have many books on ecommerce, innovation, start-ups, non-profits, real estate and estate planning and investing.

~Peter Dehlinger,  
Section Manager



### Psychology and Self-Help:

Here you'll find everything from New-Age spiritualism to classics in psychiatry. Looking for a book on love, marriage, career and work, parenting, or sexuality? You'll find it among the more than 800 books we feature every month. Many new and classic treatises in psychiatry and psychology are available. Books by men about men, favorites by Gail Sheehy, and self-help books

## Book Sale Outreach

There are many reasons to shop for books at the FOPAL monthly sales. Some customers use the book sales to help stock the libraries of small businesses or charitable organizations, or to contribute books to school libraries. Customers Rick and Margaret Row have gone international with their book sale purchases. Their son Ian was a Peace Corps volunteer in Kyrgyzstan from 2008 until 2010, and knew that Peace Corps volunteers and staff greatly appreciate books for recreational reading and to support English classes and other Peace Corps volunteer activities. Since then, the Rows reached out to the Peace Corps Country Director in Kyrgyzstan to ask if they could provide books for the volunteers still there. Initially

they scavenged the book sale each month guided only by a short list of categories of books in demand. More recently, the Kyrgyz Peace Corps office has been checking the online photos in the days before the sales, and providing a list of specific titles they'd like to receive along with the numbers of the photos in which the titles appeared. With the help of Friends volunteers at the sales, the Rows are able to find most of the requested titles. If anyone is interested in doing something similar, they should talk to their Volunteer and let him or her contact their Country Director to ask for support with shipping.

~Peter Dehlinger

## Book Sale Sections, *continued*

of all types are a sample of what awaits you in this section.

~ *Bonnie and Bill Chandler,*  
*Section Managers*

**Art, Architecture:** This is the “large-book” section, with many coffee-table books of paintings, water colors, sketches or photographs. Most of the books are in good to very-good condition, and are priced far below new-book prices, typically in the \$3 to \$10 range. From the modernist paintings of Joseph Albers to the Renaissance anatomy sketches of Andreas Vesalius, you will find beautiful artist and gallery theme books, old art manuscripts, and how-to books on art and painting. The section also features large-book collections of Japanese, Chinese, African, and Pre-Columbian art.

~ *Mary Smith, Section Manager*



**Music and Dance, Books and Sheet Music:** Our section is eclectic, to say the least, and offers shelves of sheet music, musical scores for operas, choral works, Broadway musicals, folks songs, children’s music, and religious hymns, as well as books about composers, musical instruments, musical history, and almost anything else that get’s published under the rubric of music. If you’re a musician looking for sheet music for any instrument or voice, stop by and browse.

~ *Charlotte Epstein, Elena Nazarova, Section Managers*



**Fiction, Classics and Modern Literature:** Section Manager Scottie Zimmerman loves classic British and American literature and it shows in her thoughtful selection and arrangement of the works of British novelists from Kingsley Amis to Evelyn Waugh, and American authors from Edward Abbey to Thomas Wolfe. Name a great 20th century American or British novel, and you’ll find it here among the more than 900 books in this

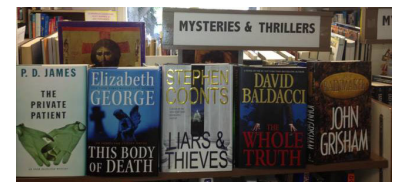
section. Books by James Baldwin, Saul Bellow, William Faulkner, Ken Kesey, Eudora Welty, Joyce Carol Oates, and 130 other British and American authors are here for the choosing.

~ *Scottie Zimmerman,*  
*Section Manager*



**Mysteries, Thrillers, True Crime:** Everyone enjoys a good mystery and Section Manager Judith Wagstrom thinks you’ll find the perfect one among the more than 900 mysteries on display each month. Fans of Ruth Rendell, P D James, or Elizabeth George have dozens of titles to choose from, as do fans of Clive Cussler, Richard North Patterson, David Baldacci, Nelson DeMille, or John Grisham, all books priced at \$2.00 or less. Sherlock Holmes and Agatha Christie books are well represented here too, and don’t overlook the No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency.

~ *Judith Wagstrom,*  
*Section Manager*



## Call for new FOPAL Board member

The FOPAL Board of Directors currently has a vacancy for the 2-year period beginning in January, 2013. Here’s a chance to be involved with FOPAL at the decision-making level, get to know a nice group of people, and contribute to the Palo Alto Library in a meaningful way. The Board meets from 9-11 AM on the second Wednesday of every month, and many Board members are active on Board committees or as volunteers. If you have an interest, or have questions about Board activities or time commitments, contact Board President Jim Schmidt at [James39@comcast.net](mailto:James39@comcast.net).

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## Want to become a FOPAL volunteer? Come Dance with the FOPAL Stars

*[Sorting donated books by subject is a good place to start]*

Come on, folks, are you ready to jive?  
'Cause sorting books makes you feel alive  
Sing out loud as you read the titles  
Scan a few pages and get the vitals  
Don't be afraid to jump up and shout  
When you think you know what the book is about  
If the title leaves you without a clue  
Just start reading, what else can you do  
Until the beat of the book gets in your head  
You're tapping your feet and getting the thread  
And pretty soon, the old cred is back  
Your legs are moving like a jumping jack  
One box, two box, three box, four  
You're rocking and talking the real book lore,  
Getting cozy with the prosey and feeling good,  
Yea, you belong in the FOPAL hood

*[Pricing and shelving books, for more experienced volunteers]*

Your shoes are shined and set to prance  
It's time to do the bookshelf dance  
Eeny meeny miny moe, that's the call  
No need for protocol and don't hesitate  
Look at the cover, look at the date  
Just pick a price, don't wait  
Until your feet get tangled in debate  
And once in a while, as you're busting a move  
You'll discover style in a high-value groove  
It's a rush, it's a blush, this online whack  
No shelf for this book, it's a Cadillac  
Let them find it on Amazon, clickety clack  
The Samba, the Ramba, that's so before  
Now you're hopping on the FOPAL floor

*[Book Sale Day-- it's chaotic, but you can do it]*

Get ready, you hipsters, it's big dance time  
Pockets are jingling with more than a dime  
The crowd's hungry for tricks, looking for deals  
Did you put on your kicks with the wide dance heels?  
What's the best move when a question arises?  
Just keep it smooth without surprises  
Unless you're fly on the subject, I mean, real erudite  
Then don't hold back, 'cause it's dynamite  
When you're busting with knowledge  
Like, "outta sight" when you were in college  
10 o'clock, 11 o'clock, 12 o'clock rock  
Two hours in and you could be in shock.  
No time to wig out or sit by the wall  
Do the cashier gig, and count the haul  
Hang in there, a smile on your face  
'Cause four hours later... just look at this place!

*[The rewards of being a FOPAL Volunteer]*

The dance floor is quiet, it's time for reflection  
The hip-hop illusion is no mere confection  
You followed the rhythm and kept the flow  
From sorting donations to sale-day mojo  
You moved your feet and kept you eyes wide open  
'Cause selling used books takes a bit of hopin'  
And when the sale was over and the money was counted  
Praise be, how our libraries amounted  
With bigger collections and gathering places  
Greater resources, and community graces  
That's your applause, the looking around  
And feeling the love from your own home town  
It's yours for the taking, this Volunteer story  
Check out below for the full repertory

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### FOPAL needs volunteers for

- Picking up book donations
- Sorting new donations
- Pricing and shelving books
- Staffing monthly book sales

Contact Janette Herceg, Sales Manager and Volunteer Coordinator,  
at 650-494-1266 or by email at [jherceg@friendspalaoaltolib.org](mailto:jherceg@friendspalaoaltolib.org)

**Book Sales:**

Second Weekend Every Month  
Cubberley Community Center  
4000 Middlefield Road

**Saturday Hours**

Main Room: 11 AM - 4 PM

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

Children's Room (Annex) & Bargain Room (K7):  
10 AM to 4 PM

**Sunday Hours**

All rooms: 11 AM - 4 PM

*For details, see [www.friendspaloaltolib.org](http://www.friendspaloaltolib.org)*

**Book Discussion Group: Second Thursday**

Lucie Stern Community Center Community Room  
1305 Middlefield Road 7:30 to 9 PM

*For information, see:*

[www.fopalbookgroup.homestead.com](http://www.fopalbookgroup.homestead.com)

**Great Books: Second Tuesday**

3676 South Court, Palo Alto 7:30 PM  
(Elsie Taboroff's home)

For information, call Elsie Taboroff at 493-8629  
<http://www.friendspaloaltolib.org/newsletters.htm>

**Library Commission: Fourth Thursday**

Council Conference Room,  
250 Hamilton Avenue 7 PM

*To confirm date/time see:*

[www.city.palo-alto.ca.us/clerk/schedule.html](http://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
_____ Individual	\$15	\$27
_____ Family	\$25	\$45
_____ Student	\$10	\$18
_____ Senior	\$10	\$18
_____ Supporter	\$50	\$90
_____ Sponsor	\$100	
_____ Patron	\$250	
_____ Lifetime	\$500	
_____ Corporate	\$1000	

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

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Address

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City / State / Zip

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Phone

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***Make checks payable to:***

Friends of the Palo Alto Library

***Return form to:***

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P.O. Box 41 Palo Alto, CA 94302

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