



# FOREWORD

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Palo Alto Library

Fall 2016

## Members Annual Meeting—2016

**Date:** Wednesday, October 12, 2016  
**Time:** 10:30am  
**Place:** Rinconada Library. Embarcadero Room  
**Agenda:** Election of 2017 Board, annual financial year summary, other business from the members.

### To FOPAL Members from Nigel Jones, President

Please join us at our Annual General Meeting at the Rinconada Library on October 12, 2016. The monthly Board meeting will take place from 9:30am to 10:30 am after which the floor will be open to you, our members, to give us your thoughts on FOPAL's operations, where it is doing well, ways in which FOPAL could improve and suggestions for FOPAL's future. We look forward to seeing you. If you are unable to attend please send me your questions and I will address them at the meeting and the answers will be available online in our Board minutes.

*Nigel Jones, President*  
*nigelfopal@gmail.com*

### Proposed for re-election to the Board for a two-year term

Tom Clark, Peter Dehlinger, Suzanne Brown Little, Gerry Masteller, Jim Schmidt, and Steve Staiger.

### Continuing Board members are:

Nancy Cohen, Charlotte Epstein, Nigel Jones, Tina Kass, Karen Neier, and Martha Schmidt.

### Proposed FOPAL Officers

President: Nigel Jones  
Vice President: Suzanne Brown Little  
Secretary: Tina Kass  
Treasurer: Shaun Maguire  
Assistant Treasurer: Karen Neier

### Proposed Board Members

Shaun Maguire  
Jenny Munro

### Retiring

Ann Justice – we thank you for your service and continuing commitment to FOPAL.

## Biannual Member Early Book Sale

December 10, 2016

Main Book Room

Life Members and Sponsors: 9am - 10am

All Members: 10am - 11am

General Public: 11am – 4pm

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## FOPAL and the Art of Book Arts

I learned about FOPAL about 8 years ago and have been a frequent FOPAL forager ever since. Living in Marin, I follow a strict routine for my visits: on the road at 6, arrive 7:15, park near the Bargain Book room, put out FOPAL bags to secure my place in line, have coffee, read newspapers in the car, venture out around 7:30, get in line for a Main Room ticket, peruse the ephemera tables, check out the Red Tent, back to the Bargain Room at 9:30, then off to Main Book Room at 11. Sometimes I really score big, other times not so much. But it is always fun and I never come away empty handed.

I adore FOPAL for the way it is organized, for its super rich treasures, for providing such a fine resource for not only we book lovers who read them, but also for artists who give them new life as “book art objects”.

My art work is the creation of collages. These are from deteriorating books from the late 1800s and early 1900s which provide the materials I work with. I look for books with interesting covers, glorious marbled or patterned endpapers, cloth and leather book covers marked by the ravages of time, hand sewn spines, publisher and bookseller marks, decorative initials gracing the first word of a paragraph, and, sometimes, a uniquely patterned paper resulting from delaminating an old leather book cover.

I also use imagery such as engravings of birds, botanicals, butterflies, anatomical drawings, scientific instruments, Animalia, and the like, which come from old encyclopedias, dictionaries, and natural history and science books of the period.

I hope these collages evoke this particular era of book publishing and the delights that come from studying their long gone structures as well as their hand-drawn imagery.

I not only collect materials for myself but put them in my vintage paper/ephemera sales for other artists. I love seeing things I've collected appear in other artists' works. One of them calls me a midwife to artists: I collect the stuff and they use it.

As a result of my own art work I came up with the idea of having a fundraiser for the Marin Museum of Contemporary Art (MarinMOCA) and I founded the Altered Book Show, in which we would give artists a book and have them create an art piece from it. The first year, we had just 50 artists and now in its

seventh year this has grown to 150 and has become a much anticipated event as well as a major source of funds for MarinMOCA. I am so pleased to have played an important role in bringing this show to the community.

A collector/forager at heart, I enjoy the hunt for materials at estate sales, flea markets and on the street and especially at the FOPAL monthly book sale which has an endless supply of treasures.

-Eleanor Murray  
eleanormurray@comcast.net



*Eleanor Murray*



*Leptotes Bicolor*

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## Tristan Wang: FOPAL Teen Book Reviewer

I have quite a lot of friends among my peers who profess that they do not like reading. Not to be insensitive, but I tend to frown at such an outlook -- not because I believe it to be an irrelevant opinion, but because I consider such a statement to be quite implausible. To me, saying that one does not enjoy reading is just as dubious and vague as claiming that one does not enjoy music: there exists a myriad of genres and works of literature it is next to impossible for one to be incapable of savoring even a small portion of them. With that context, it is my firm belief that, for the most part, people who say they dislike reading probably commit to such an assertion because they have not been able to find a book they can appreciate.

If this is the case, I believe that such instances of a lack of interest in books are very much understandable. This is because, in my opinion, of the entirety of published works available to us, a very small portion receive an outrageously disproportionate amount of attention. To illustrate on my point, go for a simple Google search. Key in any specific genre of books, be it fantasy, romance, or crime fiction, on a couple of popular online databases, such as NPR, Goodreads, or Amazon. You will find yourself met with mostly the same literary works over and over again. These are the titles that have been deemed "popular literature," and thus essentially command the scrutiny of the vast majority.

That said, it would be unfair to say that popular novels lack merit of any kind. On the contrary, I very much respect their authors' skills and remarkable polish that have distinguished their works among such a sizable amount of the general readership. However, these relatively few works, quite frankly, cannot account for the diversity and sheer size of all the books that would be otherwise conveniently available to us. True, not everyone may be as crazy about books as I am. But would it not be regrettable, by any measure, that books you might cherish may be located in your nearest local library and you are oblivious to them only because there was no one to recommend them or otherwise bring them to your attention?

Of all the reasons, ranging from valid to dismissible, that I have served as "Teen Contributor" for the FOPAL monthly newsletter for more than a year and a half, the above notion occupies the center stage. Every month, I commit myself to three periodic

entries of books I find particularly noteworthy, as a form of recommendation dedicated primarily to my teenage peers. True, I am merely one person and my perspective is indeed restricted, but I try my best to include the grandest miscellany of literary works I can find: some of them I came across myself while strolling in libraries and bookstores, others through online browsing, and still others by word of mouth of other book-loving friends. I like to sort my findings into three fairly generic categories, the first being popular reads, the second being older classics, and the third being what I like to call "hidden jewels". These are exceptionally unique or bizarre reads I found that have not yet found their place in the spotlight of the general readership. As a guiding rule, I try to include one of each category for my monthly contributions, though this is not always possible.

As of August of 2016, I have written 18 monthly updates for the FOPAL newsletter, and I intend to continue to serve in this position until the conclusion of this year and, mostly likely, the year after as well. In all manner of truth, I very much appreciate the opportunity to express my passion for literature by imparting some of my favorite reads onto others.

*FOPAL Teen Book Reviewer  
Junior, Palo Alto High School*



*Tristan Wang*

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## Mobile Library with Pedals

With the help of a Friends of the Palo Alto Library grant and a Pacific Library Partnership Innovation and Technology Opportunity grant, the Palo Alto City Library has purchased two bikes for librarians to take services out into the community. One bike is an ice cream trike, equipped to hold library materials for checkout, craft activities, and pop-up storytime equipment. The second bike is a traditional 3-speed that will carry bike related tools and supplies, including safe route maps to the five Library branches.

The project was inspired by the Library's desire to have a strong presence in the Palo Alto community, outside of the library walls and potentially after regular hours, as well as by the city's dedication to promoting healthy living and bike commuting.

Christine Pennington, one of the youth services librarians that you will see riding the bike says "Part of the goals and objectives of this new service is to educate customers about library services that are

available to them wherever they are at, to bring services to people who can't come to the library to get them, and to hear from the community about other interests that the library may be able to assist with." Along with the bikes, educational library programs on bike safety and maintenance as well as bicycle repair stations that will be placed at the Rinconada and Mitchell Park Libraries will be coming soon.

The Palo Alto City Library is proud to introduce Bike PALS (Palo Alto Library Services). Look for your librarians on bikes at Friends of the Library Book Sales, Farmers Markets, School events, City events, and more! Follow the library on Facebook and Twitter to see where it will be at next.

*Christine Pennington  
Youth Services Librarian*



*Christine Pennington and Deborah Anthonyson*

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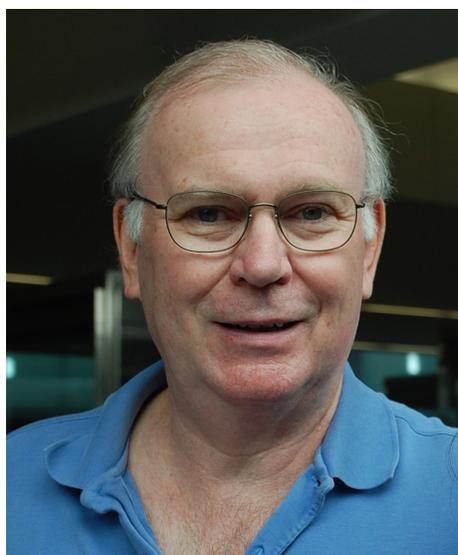
## FOPAL Proposed Board Members

Hailing from Oxford England, Shaun Maguire has lived in Palo Alto or Menlo Park continuously since 1983. He has been a life member of FOPAL since 1992 and an active user of the library system for himself and for his two, now grown, daughters who both attended school in Palo Alto and spent many hours in the Children's Library.

Coming to Stanford back in 1974 to pursue an MBA Shaun also has a CPA accreditation. Now retired, Shaun's career was in banking and finance including 4 years working in Hong Kong on capital raising activities throughout South-East Asia and a 12 year stint at Bank of America San Francisco, where he managed the bank's capital raising activities via Wall Street. More recently, he has been CFO of three Bay Area companies.

Today, Shaun resides in Menlo Park with his partner Karen Rohlf and their two mini-labradoodles, Chloe and Sadie. Over the past six years a large focus of his efforts has been a top-to-bottom renovation of their 1934 house, picking up many skills along the way. His newest hobby is collecting British coinage dating back over the past 1,000 years.

*Shaun Maguire*  
*Proposed Treasurer and Board Member*



*Shaun Maguire*

I was born in London and grew up near Watford. I came to the U.S. with my parents and sister in the sixties, and attended college and graduate school here in California. I majored in English literature and taught high school English for over thirty years, so my job at FOPAL in the classics and literature section is perfect for me. I have been volunteering at FOPAL for a few years, since retiring from Gunn High School. I also volunteer in the school at the Packard Children's Hospital. Every morning I walk my dog, and often swim at the Y, and to relax: a good novel, of course!

*Jenny Munro*  
*Proposed Board Member*



*Jenny Munro*

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# FOPAL Volunteer Opportunities

FOPAL is looking for more book lovers to join our amazing volunteer team. Flexible schedules are available and we will train you in whatever area you choose.

## **Sale Floor Monitors**

It's a privilege and fun to help people find what they are looking for during our monthly book sale. Come feel the excitement of passionate book seekers and buyers!

## **Join FOPAL's "Pick-Up Team"**

If you have a van, SUV or truck, enjoy driving and meeting people, you can help with making pick-ups using your vehicle. You'd be picking up donations from the Palo Alto Libraries, from estate sales, private homes and offices and delivering them to FOPAL at the Cubberley Community Center. Snacks aplenty when you drop off donations and we reimburse for gas and mileage.

## **Sorters & Donation Receivers needed**

Be on the frontline for FOPAL! Interested in being the first to see the items being donated? FOPAL's sorters greet donors and receive donations, while figuring out what books goes where. This is a terrific team volunteer opportunity.

## **Support a Section, become a Section Manager or Assistant.**

Run your own mini Book Store! By using your love and knowledge of books you can volunteer to price and organize a book category. Open positions include History, Antiques & Collectables, Art, Psychology and many more.

## **Give FOPAL's on-line books wings! Help with listing and fulfillments.**

Learn the listing and fulfillment process for FOPAL's successful High Value Amazon store, one of our hottest growing areas.

Check out what's for sale online from FOPAL at-  
[www.amazon.com/shops/grandmabetsybooks](http://www.amazon.com/shops/grandmabetsybooks)

If you have questions or are ready to volunteer for any of above opportunities please contact – Janette Herceg, Volunteer Manager, at:

[jherceg@fopal.org](mailto:jherceg@fopal.org)  
650-494-1266

Also check out our website at  
[www.fopal.org](http://www.fopal.org)

*Janette Herceg*  
*Volunteer Manager*



*Janette Herceg*

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# Volunteer Update

FOPAL offers warm welcomes to new volunteers, Melinda Parry, Andrea Lozano, Joni Reid, Neelima Meka and Ben Conway.

Wishing a fond farewell & happy retirement to volunteers, Althea Andersen, Marcia Goodman and Neil Foley.

FOPAL sends a big THANK YOU to all for their dedication to community service!



*Volunteer Farewell Party*

Friends of the Palo Alto Library  
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**Book Sales:**

Second Weekend Every Month  
Cubberley Community Center  
4000 Middlefield Road - Palo Alto

**Saturday Hours**

Bargain Room: 9:30am – 4pm [H2, H3]

Children's Room: 10am – 4pm

Main Room: 11am – 4pm

**Sunday Hours**

All rooms: 11am - 4pm

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

**Book Discussion Group: Second Thursday**

Lucie Stern Community Center Fireside Room  
1305 Middlefield Road 7:30pm – 9pm

For information see:

[www.fopal.org](http://www.fopal.org)

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**Friends of the Palo Alto Library Membership Form**

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

Join / Renew	1 Year	2 Years
_____ Student/Senior	\$10	\$18
_____ Individual	\$20	\$35
_____ Family	\$30	\$50
_____ Sponsor	\$100	\$175
_____ Lifetime	\$500	
_____ Corporate	\$1000	

\_\_\_\_\_ Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Address

\_\_\_\_\_ City / State / Zip

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

***Make checks payable to:***

Friends of the Palo Alto Library

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P.O. Box 41 Palo Alto, CA 94302

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Friends of the Palo Alto Library [FOPAL] Board of Directors: Nigel Jones, President; Suzanne Brown Little, Vice President; Tina Kass, Secretary; Karen Neier, Treasurer; Tom Clark, Nancy Cohen, Peter Dehilnger, Charlotte Epstein, Ann Justice, Gerry Masteller, Jim Schmidt, Martha Schmidt, Steven Staiger.