



FOREWORD

The Newsletter of Friends of the Palo Alto Library

Spring 2016

A THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

The Friends of the Palo Alto Library is all about people and books - a lot of people and a lot of books. Since its beginning in 1938, FOPAL has found not only dedicated volunteers but dedicated donors and buyers. Today, FOPAL has over a 100 regular volunteers, some of whom come in every day and some of whom have been coming in for over 20 years. As a three-year volunteer I am a relative newcomer!

We have over 800 paid-up members, including 275 Life Members. Every year around 80 people donate money to FOPAL during our annual appeal and every month around 2,200 people come to our monthly sale. We must be one of the best attended monthly events in the whole area!

We have no idea how many people make donations to us, but our phones are always ringing and people show up all day long with everything from a paperback to a fully loaded pickup truck. What do those donations amount to? Well we know that at every sale we have 70,000 books, CDs, and DVDs for sale, not to mention 10,000 books available online through our Amazon store.

Due to your generosity you have contributed towards our giving over \$3 million in grants to the Palo Alto City Library, to its collection and to its broad-based community programming, helping make the library a gem in our local community.

We send out a big THANK YOU for all your support and we look forward to seeing you at our next sale.

Nigel Jones, President
Nigelfopal@gmail.com

The History of the Friends of the Palo Alto Library - Still Going Strong after 78 Years

Friends of the Palo Alto Library was organized in 1938 at the Mayfield Branch Library by Palo Altans who saw the need for a volunteer group to assist the City's two libraries. Available information indicates that this Palo Alto organization was one of the first Friends groups associated with a public library to form on the West Coast. During World War II the newly formed Friends organization suspended activities, but in January 1947, after the war, it was activated by 25 townspeople who recognized the continuing need for an active library support group.

Howard Pease, prominent local author of books for boys, called the 1947 meeting to order. The stated



Steve Staiger

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objectives of the group included providing “a body of informed citizens who will enrich library resources, see that the library is given proper recognition and give encouragement to the Library board and staff in their work.”

To mark its rejuvenation, the Friends’ organization sponsored an authors’ tea in April of 1947. Authors responding to the invitation to attend included Gertrude Atherton, Alan Cranston, Kathleen Norris, Wallace Stegner, Graham H. Stuart, the Darwin Teihets, Donald Tressider, Bailey Willis, Janet Lewis and Yvor Winters. A later event was planned to honor authors writing for children and young people. A 1948 article in the San Jose Mercury Herald describing the activities of the Friends hailed Palo Alto as a “Town of Readers” because over 11,500 persons held library cards out of a population of 22,000 – a participation rate of more than 50 percent – when normally a rate of 30 percent was considered high.

Palo Alto Friends went on to adopt a constitution November 6, 1958, to incorporate January 24, 1966, and to adopt its by-laws January 10, 1967. For years Friends used the basement area of the Carnegie Library to sort book contributions and to prepare for

book sales. During the 1980s, the frequency of book sales increased from one per year to two each month and then settled back to one sale per month. The frequency of Friends’ book sales always comes as a surprise to out-of-towners who normally think of such sales as being once or twice a year and certainly no more often than quarterly. The frequency of Friends-sponsored book sales reflects the generosity of the community in donating their books. Funds collected by Friends go for enrichment of collections and for special programs and services. Books not sold are given to worthy nonprofit groups for their use and distribution.

Friends of the Palo Alto Library continues to provide important support to the City’s libraries. Funds are generated through membership dues, well-attended monthly book sales, and annual fundraising appeals. Over the years, the Friends of the Palo Alto Library has donated over \$3 million to Palo Alto libraries.

(excerpted from Tom Wyman’s “Palo Alto and its Libraries”, PAHA 1999)

Steve Staiger, FOPAL and PAHA Board Member

MEMBER’S CORNER

NEW MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

As a sign of appreciation for the generosity of all our members, we have increased your benefits. From now on Life Members and Sponsors can each buy 100 books between 9am to 10am at our biannual member early book sale. All members can each buy 25 books between 10am to 11am at our biannual member early book sale.

MEMBER EARLY BOOK SALE

Main Book Sale Room

Saturday, July 9th 2016

Saturday, December 10th 2016

Life Members and Sponsors: 9am to 10am

All Members: 10am to 11am

General Public: 11am to 4pm

Would you like to be our Treasurer?

The FOPAL board is looking for a Treasurer. The Treasurer’s role includes overseeing the finances of our monthly book sale as well as our expenditures, especially the annual grants we make to the library to pay for their programming. Some familiarity with Excel and Quicken or QuickBooks would be helpful.

A one-year term begins on Jan 1, 2017. There is a maximum of three terms. For more information, contact our current Treasurer, Karen Neier at 650-494-6535.

Everyone enjoys a bargain ...

What can you buy in the Bargain room? All sorts of books!! And every genre of LP records! Some of the books are duplicates from our main sale; some are in poor condition but readable. But many, many Bargain Room books, and most of the records, are there simply because there is nowhere else for them!!! We are given so many wonderful books, that the Main Room fills up in an instant, and even fabulous books have to be offered by the bag. And so in the Bargain Room you will find rare books, ancient books, obscure books. You'll find books you've been meaning to read for years, and books you'd never thought to read, and books you are surprised exist, and at a price that means you never have to say "no" to a captivating book or LP.

The Bargain Room is at H2 and H3 of the Cubberley Community Center

Karen Bobonich, Bargain Room

High Value Books and High Value Sales

FOPAL sells its high value books through its Amazon Store – Grandma Betsy. We have around 10,000 books listed covering everything from antiquarian to current hot sellers. A dedicated team handles the research, listing, inventorying and mailing. The most popular categories include science, mathematics, computers, history, art and religion.

Recent high price sellers include Western Technology and Soviet Economic Development, 1917 to 1930 (History) \$244.98, Lew Wallace; an Autobiography, Illustrated. Vols. I & II (Biographies/Memoirs) \$220.00, Claudio Bravo: Paintings and Drawings (Art) \$199.95, Somebody Else Is on the Moon (New Age) \$195.00, Gallium Nitride Electronics (Springer Series in Materials Science) (Science) \$169.99, and War and Peace, Volumes 4 - 6 of a 6-Volume set (Literature) \$160.00.

Visit us at: <http://www.amazon.com/shops/grandmabetsybooks>

Jerry Stone, High Value Books Manager

Free Books from FOPAL!

FOPAL gives away free books from the Bargain Room/H2 after each sale! Teachers & Non-Profits get first pick at the Sunday Sale from 4pm - 6pm! Non-profit organizations and schools are able to select books from among the thousands of books available in the Bargain Room/H2 on the Sunday evening following the sale from 4pm - 6pm. If you are associated with a non-profit organization or school that would like to receive books from FOPAL for free, or would like that information on eligibility, hours, and the types of materials available, please contact Norma Burchard in advance by e-mail at normalcy@earthlink.net or at (650) 494-1082. Several dozen organizations benefit from the monthly giveaways, including local hospitals, homeless programs, senior centers, schools, and jails, as well as libraries in rural areas and on reservations, and literacy projects in many other countries.

Freebies for FOPAL volunteers! From 6pm at the Sunday Sale to 5:59 pm the following Monday, FOPAL volunteers may select books from the Bargain Room/H2 for free too!

Monday Free Night for Everyone Else! From 6pm - 8 pm on the Monday night after each monthly sale, everyone- you don't have to be a non-profit or a FOPAL volunteer- may come and take away from the Bargain Room/H2 any amount of books and media. Be sure to pass this information along to all and as a reminder, bring your own bags and boxes. Or shopping cart!

Janette Herceg, Volunteer and Sale Manager



Janette Herceg

Mary's Art Section

The folks in and around Palo Alto have a love of art, both participating in art and viewing art and architecture. The variety of art books that appear each month continues to surprise even the most devoted art lover. Many lifelong collections show a rich variety of people's creative interests and a passion for collecting books that feed that passion. Luckily, we benefit from this, as many books that have been out of print for some time pass through FOPAL and can be found on the shelves at the monthly sale.

An art section maybe be a bit of a misnomer. For what is art? The expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power. However art as a form of creatively producing a work which carries strong emotional power and beauty is, in fact, everywhere. Literature, music, movies and even games and in the acts of cooking, sewing, building models, and creating computer programs which sometimes require more art than science. Thus an article about the art section could encompass the entire contents of the Friends of the Palo Alto Library sale -just for now we will limit the discussion to what can be found within what is called the Art Section.

The Art Section contains studio art; graphic design; art history; individual artists; regional art; collections from museums; and architecture. While

most of these topics are self explanatory, studio art could use some additional clarification as to what type of book you will find there. It is really the how-to of being an artist - how to draw, how to paint, how to learn more about watercolor or oil painting. Also we have books on creativity and design inspiration, as well as, how to manage the business aspects of being an artist.

An open invitation awaits you on these shelves to pick up a brush or pencil and express yourself.

Mary Ahrens, Art Section Manager



Sandy Rickard

FOPAL's Library Bookstores

We are proud to remind our FOPAL members and the Palo Alto community that FOPAL now has three small satellite stores in Palo Alto Library branches; the Downtown Store opened in the 90s, Mitchell Park opened in 2014, and Rinconada opened in 2015.

All three stores have small general book collections on popular subjects like cooking, history, health, and fiction. FOPAL volunteers run the stores keeping them well stocked. Volunteers answer questions about the stores and about FOPAL activities such as the monthly book sales at Cubberley.

The volunteers are enjoying being out in the community more.



The Art Section

All stores are open when the library branches are open, and payments for books purchased can be dropped in the designated boxes.

Many thanks to the following volunteers that keep the book shelves full, and the stores up and running:

Marion Knox, Jenny Munro, Cathy Swan, Linda Suzuki, Sandy Rickard, Jeff MacDonell, Suzanne Little, Nigel Jones, Lynnne Melena, Rommel Struckus, Dave Korner, Rick Boyles.

*Linda Suzuki,
Manager, Mitchell Park FOPAL Bookstore*

A Child's Paradise for Books, Toys, and Games

Question: Where can you afford to shop with a child and say, "Buy any item you want"?

Answer: *At the FOPAL Children's Book Room in the portable at the southwest corner of the Cubberley campus.*

The books, toys, and games are extremely affordable, starting at 50 cents. Most are priced well under 5 dollars. You'll be amazed by what we offer in our bright, spacious, stroller-friendly room. Many items are new or like new!

Here's some of what you'll find:

- Children's books, in English and many other languages, including board books, picture books, books for beginning readers, classics, graphic novels, and nonfiction books on just about any topic imaginable.
- Chapter books, priced inexpensively so that collecting an entire series by a favorite author is affordable—there are special shelves for award winners and for series like Dear America, Harry Potter, and A Series of Unfortunate Events
- Teacher supplies and classroom materials, including "big books" for reading to preschoolers or early elementary classes, all deeply discounted (and sometimes free).
- Jigsaw and floor puzzles (we count the pieces to make sure they're complete), board games, toys, crafts materials, stuffed animals.

- CDs and DVDs—and even some Blu-Ray disks—including Disney, Dora, Diego, and Thomas the Tank Engine.
- Workbooks, including Kumon and Singapore Math, and textbooks
- Books on topics of interest to parents and parents-to-be
- Collectible 20th-century books, toys, and games

If you're in search of a gift, browse our shelves and bins of giftable books and toys. There's bound to be something to please almost any child or grandchild.

Everything in our monthly sale has been donated to FOPAL by generous people like YOU--thank you!

Carolyn Davidson, Children's Room Manager



*Miriam Landesman, Carolyn Davidson
Nancy Olson, Joan Peters, Winnie McGannon*

Volunteer Opportunities

FOPAL depends on its team of volunteers and we are always looking for new book lovers to join us. We are looking for people to sort books [be the first to see what is donated!], also people to support our Historical Fiction, Art, Psychology, The American West, and Gardening sections. Our online High Value team is looking for help with research, filing and fulfillment. Hours are flexible and the supply of cookies is endless!

For more information, please contact our volunteer manager Janette Herceg at jherceg@fopal.org (650) 494 1266

Friends of the Palo Alto Library
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Palo Alto, CA 94302-0041

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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 - 4 pm

For details, see 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

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 |
|----------------------|--------|---------|
| _____ 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

Return form to:

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

You will receive your FOREWORD by mail. If you would rather receive it by email or view it on our website (<http://www.fopal.org/newsletters.htm>), please let us know by email (editor@fopal.org).

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 Dehlinger, Charlotte Epstein, Ann Justice Gerry Masteller, Jim Schmidt, Martha Schmidt, Steven Staiger.