



# FOREWORD

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Palo Alto Library

Fall 2014

## Members Annual Meeting—2014

**Date:** Wednesday, October 8, 2014  
**Time:** 10:00 AM  
**Place:** The FOPAL Annex  
**Agenda:** Election of 2015 Board members and officers; annual financial summary from the Treasurer; other business from the members.

### To FOPAL Members from Peter Dehlinger, President

Please join us at our annual meeting on October 8th at the FOPAL Annex at Cubberley. Over the past year, we've been moving in a number of strategic directions to help ensure FOPAL's continued success and support from the community. Volunteer numbers and level of participation are up, revenue from the monthly book sales remains strong, and on-line sales of high-value books continues to grow, now more than 25% of FOPAL's total book-sale revenue. Book donations have been exceptional this year, including a large donation from PARC and several valuable individual collections. If you haven't yet seen FOPAL's newly refurbished website ([www.FOPAL.org](http://www.FOPAL.org)), you will be delighted with its "look and feel." In short, we are on strong footing as we move into the future. Your ideas and continued participation as a FOPAL member are valuable to us, and we look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting.

### Semi-Annual Member Early Book Sale

December 13, Main Book Sale Room

Life Members 9-10 AM

Other members 10-11 AM

General Public 11 AM - 4 PM

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

Tom Clark, Peter Dehlinger, Charlotte Epstein, Ann Justice, Gerry Masteller, Jim Schmidt, and Steven Staiger.

### Continuing Board members are:

Nancy Mahoney Cohen, Martha Schmidt, Nigel Jones, and Karen Neier

### Proposed new Board members

Suzanne Little, Tina Kass

### Proposed FOPAL Officers

President: Peter Dehlinger  
Vice President: Suzanne Little  
Secretary: Charlotte Epstein  
Treasurer: Karen Neier  
Assistant Treasurer: To Be Determined

### FOPAL NEWS

FOPAL's upcoming book sales are Oct. 11th and 12th, November 8th and 9th, and December 13th and 14th.

You can purchase FOPAL's higher-value books through our Amazon site at <http://www.amazon.com/shops/grandmabetsybooks.com>.

Want to become a member or renew your membership? Go to our new website [www.fopal.org](http://www.fopal.org) for details.

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## 2014 Palo Alto City Library Summer Reading Program

The library's 2014 summer reading program has been a big success, thanks to generous donations from FOPAL. More than 2,500 customers of all ages, from infants to adults, participated in the program by setting a reading goal for themselves and reading throughout the summer months. Participants read more than 30,000 books between June 1 and August 30! We were especially pleased with the 25% increase in program participation of adults, and the 40% increase in program participation of young children under the age of three years.

All summer reading participants received a \$5 Book Bucks coupon to spend at the Friends of the Palo Alto Library's monthly book sales. They also received a free paperback book to take home and keep; the paperbacks were purchased with a donation from FOPAL.

FOPAL also contributed to a number of other programs for readers of all ages, the most popular being the "Wacky Wednesday" programs, which featured a different children's performer each week in June and July, a puppet show, a story teller, a magician, and a juggler. Family events included a summer reading program kick-off event with free ice cream and Saturday movie matinees at the library. Teen events included a visit by a professional artist who taught teens how to draw their own comic book, as well as a lesson on the art of electronic sound design. Adult programs included a monthly book club and a parenting series.

## Beloved Friend of the Library dies

Ellen Wyman, a Palo Alto activist and long-time supporter of the Friends of the Palo Alto Library, passed away on September 14th. Ellen and her husband Tom, who died in March of this year, moved to Palo Alto in the late 1960's, and took up and helped prevail on a number of residentialist causes. In the late 1980's, both became true Friends of the Library; over the next 25 years, they would become the backbone of FOPAL, serving on the board in various capacities, helping with the book sales and guiding the organization with wisdom, passion, shrewdness. We at FOPAL are deeply grateful to Ellen and will miss her.

## Pitter Patter Reading Club

This summer, the library encouraged parents of children under two years of age to participate in the "Pitter Patter Reading Club." Colorful brochures containing a variety of simple activities that support early literacy were available at all five Palo Alto City Library branches. Parents were asked to work with their children to complete at least twelve of the activities, then return to the library to receive a complimentary board book. Friends of the Palo Alto Library supplied funds that allowed the library to purchase the prize books for this trial program. The library received positive feedback from parents, and also observed a large increase in participation in the summer reading program of children under the age of three.

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## Report from the Treasurer

-Karen Neier

The past fiscal year (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014) has seen a modest increase in net income. Our online sales revenues continues to grow, and revenue from our monthly book sales has been steadily rising.

We were able to donate over \$ 105,000 to the Palo Alto Library during the last fiscal year, and in the past three years we have contributed more than \$800,000 to the Library. This would not have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers, the contributions of our donors, and the support of our book-sale customers. A big thanks to all!!

FOPAL FINANCIAL DATA		
	2013-2014	2012-2013
Cubberley Book Sales	\$239,909	\$232,467
Amazon Sales	\$88,519	\$61,616
Other Revenue	\$47,156	\$39,569
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$375,584</b>	<b>\$333,652</b>
Total Expenses	\$213,225	\$192,574
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$162,359</b>	<b>\$141,078</b>
<b>Grants Paid to the Library</b>	<b>\$105,433</b>	<b>\$242,266</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$485,269</b>	<b>\$428,344</b>
<b>Change in Total Assets</b>	<b>\$56,925</b>	